

THE PENDLETON
TIMES

JAN.-DEC.
2006

Commission To Hold Public Forum on Wind

are finalized, county commission president Bob Grimm said on Tuesday.

The commission took that action at its regular meeting at the courthouse on Jan. 3.

At the commission's Dec. 20 meeting in the courthouse, Garnett Gregory of Sugar Grove and other residents had expressed concerns about the presumed economic benefits of the proposed wind power project.

Those citizens stated their belief that the commissioners have a responsibility to become involved in providing information and dialogue on the subject of wind power and its potential impact on the county.

Grimm said he had spoken to Jim Cookman, a US WindForce vice-president, and G. Thomas Matthews, the company's chief operating officer.

They indicated their willingness to take part in a forum, so long as there was a moderator and the questions they would be asked were written rather than spoken ones.

In other business, Grimm was re-elected to the post of president of the commission.

The commissioners supported the request from Olin and Donna Hoover and school superintendent Doug Lambert (see accompanying article).

At the Dec. 20 meeting, the

commissioners re-appointed Steve Conrad and Scott Thompson to the Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority (EDA).

The three-year terms of membership of Thompson, Conrad and Merl "Buck" Warner expired at the end of the year.

Because Warner did not wish to be re-appointed, the commissioners appointed a new member, Jeff Davis.

The three-year terms of membership became effective on Jan. 1.

In other business, the commissioners allowed the courthouse to be closed at noon on Dec. 21 for the funeral of Ruskin

799
Generators that you wish to put on people's land.

I do not wish to be kept awake all hours of the night from the noise and light produced from the wind turbines.

We, citizens of this county, have had hard enough times trying to make ends meet without the aid of people trying to come in from assorted agencies to take the land that our ancestors have worked so hard for—to make a living from.

Most people here are avid hunters. What will these wind turbines do to the wildlife. We do not understand your wishes to destroy nature and to put these wind turbines on land that only a few have agreed to in order to get the financial benefits from big companies.

We the friends of Pendleton County must stand together and protect what nature has given us for the future of all of our children.

There are many people that have moved into Pendleton County from out of state because of the beauty and scenic mountain views.

We do not understand why those that want the wind turbines think the benefits that they receive can possibly outweigh the nuisances, relationship of family, friends and neighbors.

People think just because the wind turbines are going to be located on Jack Mountain it doesn't affect them. It affects every person in the county one

what I told you a month ago. As a landowner on Jack Mountain, I can assure you this is not correct. NO ONE HAS EVER CONTACTED OUR FAMILY ABOUT LAND RIGHTS.

West Virginia's motto is "Wild Wonderful West Virginia." Once these wind turbines are in place throughout the state and counties, the state will have to change their motto to, "Land of the Wind Generators," because they get started in one county as in Tucker County and other counties in the state, they will not stop.

Once the wind turbines go out-dated and as new technology takes over, the wind generators will be abandoned, leaving the ridgeline in a horrible state of sight.

Allen Moats

Kline

New Year's Day was a beautiful, sunny day with warm temperatures in the low fifties. Early Monday morning, the area had a thunderstorm, and the temperature was 40°.

Will Smith of Alexandria, VA, spent Christmas and several days during the week with homefolks.

Visiting in the Arlin and Faye Kile home Christmas Day were Dave and Tammie Coyle, Patrick, Nathan and Mirissa of



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Brad Kile

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PENDLETON TIMES

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, 26807

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Feb

Turbine Opponents File Motion to D

Pendle- a motion a Public PSC) on erty Gap n to con- bines on

tion disclosure required by [the PSC's] siting rules."
Liberty is seeking a siting certificate for the Jack Mountain project from the PSC.

At the heart of motion for dismissal by McNeely is an assertion that the map published by Liberty Gap in a Dec. 22 legal advertisement in this newspaper "was inadequate to show the location of the proposed transmission line for the project," to quote from a FOBPC press release.

A large second map/legal advertisement was published in the Jan. 19 edition of "The

Pendleton Times," but FOBPC says the second publication "cannot save that fatally deficient initial notice."

McNeely's motion for dismissal goes on to say, "The application as filed must stand or fall upon that initial notice. Since it cannot now be contested that such initial notice was inadequate, the application should be dismissed."

The Friends organization additionally alleges that Liberty Gap's application "failed to use objective, rational siting criteria and methodology that would permit [the PSC] or interested par-

ties to examine the reasons why the Jack Mountain site was chosen for the project."

McNeely's motion for dismissal also alleges various failures in conforming with siting rules promulgated by the PSC, including a failure to include an up-to-date aerial photograph and a failure to include information pertaining to the existence of water wells and springs within one mile of the proposed Jack Mountain project.

The motion for dismissal asserts that Liberty Gap's application "did not include a study of the noise impact of the project"

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Is Wind Power Green Energy?

Editor, the Times:

As controversy builds around the proposed wind turbine project on Jack Mountain here in beautiful Pendleton County, WV, I would like to make your readers aware of two web sites that offer interesting information about wind turbine projects, both in this country and abroad.

The first is:

<http://www.cefncores.org.uk/>.

This site details the ways in which a wind turbine project affected the people in an area of Wales. Wind turbine proponents claim that their projects have been welcomed in Europe, but the short story of this project is that it was a disaster for a beautiful part of Wales. For instance, the construction of the turbines not only resulted in ugly widening of access roads, felling of hundreds of trees and traffic problems, but the construction crew showed utter disregard for the unique geography they despoiled. One foot of peat takes one thousand years to form. All of this was done over the strong objections of the local people and their local government.

Force 12 report issued in May of 2004, the United States has 6,361 megawatts of installed wind energy. This means that if every wind turbine in the United States was spinning at peak capacity, all at the exact same time, their combined electrical output would equal that of six coal-fired power plants. Since wind turbines typically operate at about 30% of their rated capacity, the combined output of every wind turbine in the US is actually equal to less than two coal-fired power plants...

Unlike an oil pump, which can pump all day and all night under most weather conditions, or coal fired/natural gas fired power plants which can also operate 24/7, wind turbines and solar cells only produce energy at certain times or under certain conditions... Without a cost-effective and scalable storage technology to provide power when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining, large scale solar/wind farms must be backed up by things like oil pumps or natural gas/coal fired powered plants. For this reason, the expansion of renewables like

hundreds of trees and traffic problems; but the construction crew showed utter disregard for the unique geography they despoiled. One foot of peat takes one thousand years to form. All of this was done over the strong objections of the local people and their local government.

The other web site, <http://lifeaftertheoilcrash.net/> makes for rather sobering reading. Its author is Matthew David Savinar, a journalist who has appeared on numerous national and international radio shows to discuss the ramifications of a declining oil supply, and what we can do to address our energy issues. His work has been quoted extensively on the floor of the United States Congress. Here are a few samples of his opinion of wind energy:

"Most people drastically overestimate the density and scalability of solar, wind, and other renewables. Some examples should help illustrate the limited capacity of these energy sources as compared to fossil fuels. According to author Paul Driessen, it would take all of California's 13,000 wind turbines to generate as much electricity as a single 548 megawatt

technology to provide power when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining, large scale solar/wind farms must be backed up by things like oil pumps or natural gas/coal fired powered plants. For this reason, the expansion of renewables like wind power actually requires an **expansion** in the supply of fossil fuels...

Journalist Michael Kane writes:

'Europe is light-years ahead of America in wind energy, and Germany leads the world. The German numbers are painting a dismal picture for wind's capacity. E.ON Netz - one of the world's largest private energy providers - owns over 40% of Germany's wind generating capacity. They released a report titled "WIND REPORT 2004" stating that wind energy requires "shadow stations" of traditional energy on back-up reserve in case the wind forecast is wrong. They state that reserve capacity needs to be 60% to 80% of the total wind capacity! So as more wind comes on line, it is all but certain that more hydrocarbon reserve capacity will be required, further demonstrating how renewable energy is

oil fuels. According to author Paul Driessen, it would take all of California's 13,000 wind turbines to generate as much electricity as a single 555-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant...

According to the European Wind Energy Association's Wind

line, it is all but certain that more hydrocarbon reserve capacity will be required, further demonstrating how renewable energy is used to supplement over-consumption.'

Here is the real kicker: these shadow stations cannot just be turned on and off at will. In order to be ready to produce electricity when the wind is not blowing or the sun is not shining, they must be fed a constant supply of natural gas or coal.

Does this really sound like a good idea? Wind turbines mean more, not less dependence on fossil fuels. And for this we are asked to sacrifice the beauty and wildness of our mountains! I hope that your readers will take a look for themselves at these two thought-provoking web sites. If they have any reservations about the effect of the proposed wind turbines and transmission lines on their property values or on Pendleton County's most promising source of income and job opportunities—its unspoiled beauty and tranquility that attracts tourism and supports the second-home real estate market—then **now** is the time for them to notify the WV Public Service Commission.

Poultry Industry Contributes To WV Economy

Editor, the Times:

The West Virginia Poultry Association was very concerned over the article that appeared in the January 19, 2006, edition of The Pendleton Times. While the article expressed concern over the construction of new poultry houses in Pendleton County, it did not convey the importance of the poultry industry to the county. There are approximately 240 poultry houses in Pendleton County, and these poultry farms make agriculture the number one industry in the county, and the number two agricultural pro-

Wind Power Developers State Their Case

"I know I'm not going to change any minds here tonight. But I do want you to know that not everyone feels the same as you."

That statement was made by G. Thomas Matthews, the chief operating officer (COO) for US WindForce, at Wednesday evening's public forum in the D. Michael Roberts Auditorium at the middle-high school.

Over the course of two and a half hours, a professional moderator from WVU posed 70 questions to Matthews and Jim Cookman, a company vice-president, about major aspects of industrial wind power as an instrument of national energy policy and about the specifics of the Liberty Gap wind turbine project proposed in this county for Jack Mountain.

There was a law enforcement presence, but the meeting was orderly and almost entirely without any expression of emotion.

One minor exception may have been the statement by Matthews reproduced above, which was uttered with what may have been a slight sigh of exasperation.

There was one moment when comments by Cookman were greeted with laughter by some members of the audience, which almost filled the auditorium.

In response to a question about the impact of wind turbines on tourism, Cookman offered substantial anecdotal evidence from Tucker County officials, business owners, realtors and citizens.

He was making the case that the Mountaineer wind farm facility in Tucker has not caused anything remotely like deprive-



US WindForce displayed this computer simulated aerial view photograph of wind turbines on the Jack Mountain ridge line at last Wednesday's forum on wind power at the middle-high school.

sion in real estate values and that, as one county official reportedly said, has induced many tourists to stay in the county a bit longer than they otherwise would have stayed.

Regarding the development of wind power as part of the nation's energy portfolio in response to ever-growing power consumption trends, Matthews pointed out that wind is part of a diverse mix of energy resources, that wind power is a renewable resource that exists alongside, and is not intended to replace, traditional power sources, such as coal/natural gas fired plants, nuclear power and so on.

"Wind energy by itself is not the answer," Matthews said.

"What we need is a diverse mix, including coal, hydro, natural gas and wind."

He also explained how wind energy is fed into and used by PJM, the Mid-Atlantic region power grid, in which Pendleton County participates and which will be the recipient of wind power generated on Jack Mountain.

In explaining the market model underlying the power grid's structure, Matthews disputed the assertion that additional fossil fuel plants must be built simply to make up for alleged wind energy inefficiencies—the times when the wind doesn't blow hard enough to make turbine blades turn.

When the wind isn't blowing, he explained, "other components

Matthews, armed throughout the evening with photographs, charts and graphs, pointed out that a wind turbine farm is "much quieter than other types of industrial activity."

He noted that a wind farm operating at 35-45 dB is not as loud as a car traveling at a speed of 40 miles per hour (55 dB). Minimal noise pollution was asserted by Matthews, who said the nearest home to the proposed Jack Mountain facility was approximately 2,300 feet away.

Using photographs of the Jack Mountain site with computer simulated wind turbine superimposed, Matthews and Cookman addressed aesthetic/viewshed questions.

Photographs showed the view of the Jack Mountain ridge line from Brushy Mountain, from Reddish Knob 12 miles away and from Spruce Knob. He said the turbines would not be seen from Spruce Knob and would not dominate the viewshed from those other vantage points.

A large part of the evening was given over to a discussion of the presumed economic impact of the Liberty Gap project on Pendleton County.

Matthews said the wind farm itself would generate between six and 12 on-site long-term jobs paying an average annual salary of about \$50,000, with that dollar figure including all benefits.

Additional economic benefits, he said, would be the creation of ancillary jobs—snow removal at the site, blade clearing, maintenance work, security and so on. The construction phase.

ated by a wind farm of that size.

Letters to the Editor

Writer Says Wind Forum Was Misinformation Program

Editor, the Times:

Score one for the Liberty Gap sales team. The public meeting hosted by the commissioners was transformed into a promotional misinformation campaign. Having been given the questions and the order in which they would be asked, three days in advance, the Liberty Gap public relations folks were able to come up with carefully scripted answers choreographed to accompany Power Point charts and pretty pictures.

My impression of this infomercial was that it was intended to give the commissioners talking points and cover for their embrace of wind turbines for our county, like it or not, despite the overwhelming opposition of their constituents. Maybe that's why they thought it necessary to have a significant public presence, fearing for their safety when the public caught

on to the charade. Well, we caught on. Tom Matthews' beaming smiles toward the commissioners and promises of benefits galore could not have been more obvious.

With no opportunity for follow-up questions, the evasive, misleading responses of Liberty Gap were allowed to stand unchallenged. I questioned two of the commissioners and they both offered the same response that there wasn't enough time for questions and I could avail myself of the public hearing before the PSC in Charleston to get them answered. Unfortunately, one has to be an intervenor to cross-examine Liberty Gap's claims and I'm not an intervenor. I'm thankful we have a newspaper that provides the only public forum left available to the average citizen of Pendleton County.

Arthur Hooton
Riverton

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Thomas Jefferson's dream of an egalitarian (the adherent to the doctrine of equal political, economic and legal rights for all Americans) democracy in America has been stretched to its limits in Pendleton County, West Virginia. First with the announcement in The Pendleton Times on December 4, 2004 that the Pendleton County Commission had signed an agreement with Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC to exercise eminent domain for a transmission line for it's proposed industrial wind project on Jack Mountain and second with the meeting on February 1, 2006 hosted by the Pendleton County Commission with Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC.

Have we violated the entire premise on which our country was founded which was that "all Men are created equal"? In reality, the words of William Jennings Bryan seem much more accurate: Men are indeed fairly equivalent, but a company can be a million times more powerful.

I recently finished a book, recommended to me by a friend, titled "Unequal Protection, The Rise of Corporate Dominance and the Theft of Human Rights". It certainly put a lot of things into perspective for me. Think hard about what you have read in the papers and hear on the radio and television and I believe that you will agree that corporations and their tremendous influence have taken the

This is a second filing to the West Virginia Public Service Commission by Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC for this project. The first application was withdrawn by Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC on December 23, 2004 because, I believe, the company had failed to include adequate information to the Public Service Commission and could not meet the deadline established by the Public Service Commission for providing the required information. It stood the risk that the Public Service Commission would dismiss the application. Having read this current application, I have concluded that Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC has again failed to provide appropriate responses to the siting application rules, documentation required by the siting application rules as well as sufficient information necessary for the Public Service Commission and the general public to make informed decisions concerning the project. In fact my interpretation of the current application and reaction to the Feb. 1, 2006, meeting is that Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC is saying to Pendleton County, we have applied for and intend to build an industrial wind project on Jack Mountain and we do not care about Pendleton County, its citizens or its landowners.

As anthropologist Margaret Mead once said, "Never doubt that a small group of thought

Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County is now incorporated and has an attorney, James McNeely, a former state legislator, who was raised by Morgantown's Linda Cooper for being tenacious.

A leader of Citizens for Responsible Wind Power spoke to local citizens and Friends activists at Friday evening's meeting at the middle/high school.

With approximately 70 in attendance, the meeting was chaired by Larry Thomas, a Franklin businessman and Circleville resident.

Other speakers were Eve Firor and Robbie Sites, two of the founders of the local anti-wind power organization.

Cooper characterized recent correspondence from the state energy department as equivocal and "mealy-mouthed," especially, she said, given talks wind power foes have had with Governor Joe Manchin.

"It's not on his agenda," Cooper reported. "He has other priorities."

She encouraged local activists to "hang together" with others across the region who "care about our mountains the way they are" and, above all, to "protect beautiful Pendleton County."

In reference to the recent public forum at which US WindForce officers answered written questions about wind power in general and the proposed Jack Mountain facility specifically, Allen Moats declared, "The whole thing was a whitewash to me."

Thomas and Sites said the Friends organization is seeking to obtain copies of the questions asked at that forum and also copies of all of the written questions submitted to the Pendleton County Commission prior to the public forum involving the wind power developers.

Attending Friday evening's meeting was county commissioner Bob Armentrout.

Firor encouraged the writing of additional letters of opposition to the Jack Mountain project to the state Public Service Commission (PSC) and reported that the letter writing campaign has been successful.

mission (PSC) and reported that the letter writing campaign has been successful. She also encouraged opponents to write to Governor Manchin and state Senator Clark Barnes.

In that regard, Thomas said it now seemed almost certain that a PSC hearing on the project would be held in Franklin this spring. That hearing, he said, would provide an opportunity for residents to voice their opinions directly to the PSC.

A resident of Highland County said questions about possible US WindForce plans for extending the Jack Mountain project into that Virginia county remain unanswered.

Thomas said he had studied US Department of Energy projections for national power consumption needs by the year 2030.

He said some analysts say those national power trends may mean that as many as "34,000 of these [industrial scale wind turbines] will be required in the Mid-Atlantic region" by that year. However, the number Thomas said he arrives at from his calculations is around 17,500.

More than one speaker said there is simply not enough regulatory power at the state level over industrial wind power facilities.

Questions were raised about possible damage to roads, especially in the Moyers/Doe Hill, VA, area during the construction phase, when large wind turbine parts would be trucked in and erected on Jack Mountain.

An audience member asked if the large-scale development of wind power would reduce coal production in West Virginia. Art Hooton answered the question, saying the inefficiencies of wind power mean that coal production will likely not be reduced in coming years.

Charlie Bates, speaking from the audience, drew the biggest round of applause at the meeting when he forcefully said, "The only reason we're sitting here tonight talking about this is because this is a subsidized industry."

Among other topics, Sites addressed the question of whether or not wind turbines are tourist attractions.

In reference to the presence of a wind farm in Tucker County, which is a major tourist destination, Sites compared the possible proliferation of wind turbines to the Statue of Liberty.

He said one Statue of Liberty is unique; if many communities

Wind...

(Continued From Page 1, Column 6)

and its power as a famous tourist attraction.

Sites wondered why wind power supporters don't agree to a moratorium on the industry until the public is better informed about the subject. If, he asked, wind turbines are so good, why not support a moratorium?

Near the end of the meeting, Sites cryptically vowed that enormous surprises are in store for county residents. He promised a big development or two in the near future, a development he said would involve a famous, household name.

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'It's a Sick Bird that Can't Carry Its Own Feather'

Sugar Grove

There was a time when certain words were used and since they were never used in a spelling bee and teachers never spoke them, one would almost think they were invented by the user. Words, such as dawdle, lollygag, 'deed and double and dilly-dally, didn't sound like dictionary words. Rambunctious was another word. Being rambunctious, obstreperous and cantankerous usually meant that one was persnickety, having a hissy or conniption fit, or cutting some monkeyshines. If one wasn't racing around like a bat out of hell, one was slower than molasses in January. Ears could get pretty dirty - dirty enough to grow potatoes in them. Should one ver swallow watermelon seeds, they'd surely grow in one's stomach. Not being hungry would be quite interesting - reminders that an empty sack won't stand up would be forthcoming. When a coat was not worn during cold weather, it was not unusual to hear "It's a sick bird that can't carry its own feather!" Faking sickness in order to miss school never worked. Reading the mind by putting a hand on the forehead to "check the temperature" was quickly

followed with "You're okay, go to school. And don't dilly-dally!"

To not know the meanings of those certain mentioned words meant a person was "wet behind the ears," or a barely qualified beginner. Many newly born animals, wet from liquids in the womb, are slow to become fully dry. Some places, like the indentations behind the ears, take the longest because of the lack of air exposure. The fur of animals, like kittens, hold moisture, stays damp until they become active. A youth or an adult who knows nothing about a subject or planned event is as helpless as an infant, or wet behind the ears. The Appalachian language is flamboyant in many ways. In many ways, it is downright peculiar even though it makes sense to those who live here.

The most discussed subject this past weekend was the weather.

The snowfall accumulated eight or so inches. More would have been recorded had several inches hadn't melted. School delays were kept to the minimal of two hours on Monday. Perhaps the air has been flushed clean of the cold and flu bug.

Nancy and Fuzzy Sims traveled to Wilmington, DE, to visit Jesse and to see his newly

purchased apartment. The three of them then traveled to Rehoboth Beach to meet Fuzz's mother, Martha, at the new Sims' family beach house. From there, Nancy, Fuzzy and Martha went to Annapolis, MD, where they enjoyed staying in the retirement community apartment into which Martha Sims has recently moved. It was a great visit.

Local Students Named to Dean's List at Wesleyan

Three Pendleton County students have been named to the fall 2005 semester dean's list at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Named to the list are Cary Burgoyne and Heather Stout, both seniors majoring in education and Cassie Humphreys, a five-year business administration/M.B.A. major. All three students are Franklin residents.

Students on the dean's list have achieved a 3.5 or higher grade point average for the semester while carrying a load of at least 12 semester hours.

Tom Mitchell had such a pleasant surprise for his birthday last weekend. There were other friends who stopped by to wish him good wishes, and they were Jennifer, Allison and Morgan Hoover of Bridgewater, VA, Donna and Roger Hoover of Franklin and Myrtle and Gernon Hoover of Moyers.

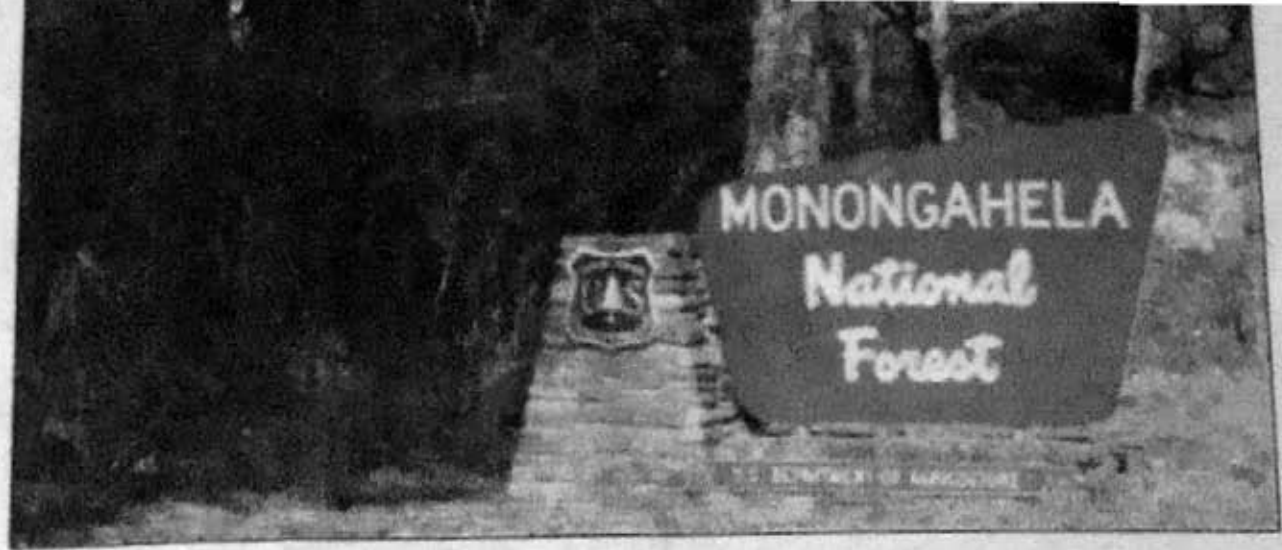
The Sugar Grove Senior Citizens met last Tuesday for their monthly meeting.

Concerns for the week are for Marleta Grogg, Willadene Simmons, Hurl Mitchell, David Gillispie, Doris Rexrode, Reva Hevener, Loris Wilfong of Bridgewater, VA, Greg Keller, Tiffany Koontz, Norm Nilsen, Kenneth Propst, Harlan Mitchell, Conway and Arlene May, Susie Rexrode, Shirley Bailey, Janelle Mitchell, Genevieve Ruddle and Lee Sinnett.

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THIS SIGN MARKS the entrance to the Mon National Forest near Cherry Grove in the North Fork Valley.

Mon Forest Land Here May Be Sold to Private Sector

Tracts of land in the Monongahela National Forest, including 1,248 acres in Pendleton County, may be put up for sale to private entities.

The US Forest Service has proposed the sale of 4,836 acres in the Mon National Forest, part of a proposal involving the sale of over 250,000 acres of national forest land, to pay for a law, the Secure Rural Schools Act, which provides extra funding for schools and roads in counties in which there are national forest lands.

The proposal, which is part of the 2007 federal budget proposed by President George W. Bush, would also involve the sale of 1,649 acres in Randolph County, 1,481 acres in Tucker County and 458 acres in Pocahontas County.

Twenty-five percent of US Forest Service revenues since 1908 from timber sales, mineral resources and grazing fees have been returned to counties with national forest property within their borders.

The payments are designed to offset the loss of school and road revenue because of government, rather than private, ownership. In 2000, the Secure Rural Schools Act was established to

PENDLETON TIM

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, 26807

Nixes Vote on Wind Power Moratorium

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Waggy moved that the EDA write to Senator Clark Barnes and thank him for introducing legislation (Senate Bill 665) calling for a moratorium on wind power in West Virginia until the state Public Service Commission (PSC) can promulgate regulatory statutes for that industry, which is an emerging one in the Middle Atlantic region.

Waggy included in his motion a call for the EDA to request that Senator Jeff Kessler, the chair of the Senate judiciary committee, expedite Senate Bill 665 inasmuch as the last regular day of

the current legislative session in Charleston is March 10.

(The bill did not emerge from committee for consideration by the full Senate.)

Waggy's motion was seconded by Joan Ashley.

Two new members of the EDA were in attendance—Jake Conrad of Fort Seybert and Wayne Lawrence of Sugar Grove. Conrad stated that wind farms are an unregulated industry.

Following a discussion, it was pointed out that a vote could not properly be taken on Waggy's

motion because the matter had not been included on the agenda for the meeting.

More discussion ensued.

Bob Armentrout, the county commissioner who sits on the EDA as a full member, passed out a special supplement published by "National Geographic."

That special supplement was devoted to unique cultural places and things in Appalachia and was intended to stimulate increased tourism in Appalachia.

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Company To Purchase Wind

said the purchase price of the power agreement is confidential. A press release from Maisano states that "there will not be an impact on rate-payers."

FirstEnergy's purchase is limited solely to the power output from the two wind generation facilities in Pendleton and Grant counties when and if both sites become operational.

The citing certificate being sought for the Liberty Gap Wind Force project on Jack Mountain in this county is pending before the state Public Service Commission (PSC).

The US WindForce power generation project at Mt. Storm in neighboring Grant County has been green-lighted by the PSC.

The Mt. Storm facility has an estimated power production capacity of 150 megawatts. Liberty Gap is a 100 megawatt project.

Combined, Maisano stated, the two projects are expected to generate approximately 650,000 megawatt-hours of electricity annually.

He said the statistical analysis arm of the federal Department of Energy, the Energy Information Administration, estimates that the two projects "will provide power to more than 90,000 average single family homes."

The power purchase agreements between FirstEnergy and US WindForce are contingent upon completion of financing

and receipt of regulatory approval for the two projects in this immediate area.

FirstEnergy and its subsidiaries are involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, as well as energy management and other energy-related services.

The company says its seven electric utility operating companies comprise the nation's fifth-largest investor-owned electric system, based on 4.5 million customers served within a 36,100-square-mile area of Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

In an interview, Maisano said the power purchase agreement represents "a huge, huge validation for these two projects. It pro-

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away and you might get another crisp dollar bill from Grandma." As soon as Jenny got home he emptied her piggy bank and

pink tail. Remember, Daddy? The one you gave me. She's my favorite." "That's okay, Honey. Daddy loves you. Good night."

store stuff so he could give her genuine treasure. So like our heavenly Father. What are you holding on to?

cause you're excited... please... late or possibly even not at all. Please don't let the June 3 deadline sneak up on you.

Keep Skunks and Bankers at a Distance

Sugar Grove

The paddocks, pastures and meadows have a new green covering to welcome spring. The rival of the robins has railed the orchestrated song nature, each morning. New th is all around. Benjamin tchell has had four sets of ves - a welcome sight for any mer. About this time, every mer is busy, and they have s of advice to pass on to one listening.

Your fences need to be horse-tight, pig-tight and bull-strong. Keep skunks and bankers at stance.

Life is simpler when you r around the stump.

A bumblebee is considerably er than a John Deere tractor. Words that soak into your are whispered...not yelled. Meanness don't jes' happen night.

Forgive your enemies. It ses up their heads.

Do not corner something you know is meaner than

It doesn't take a very big on to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel

Every path has a few les.

When you wallow with pigs, t to get dirty.

he best sermons are lived, reached.

ost of the stuff people about ain't never gonna n anyway.

an't judge folks by their es.

Remember that silence is mes the best answer.

Be a good, honorable life.

Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

- Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
- Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.
- If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'
- Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.
- The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.
- If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.
- Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Erma Moats enjoyed the weekend visit of her grandson, Brandon McMillen, and Wanda Pitsenbarger.

Weekend visitors of Reid Homan were John and Loretta Homan of Shepherdstown. While here, they visited in the home of Bill and Ruth Bowers.

Ann Thompson of Riverton paid a Sunday afternoon visit with Jim and Linda Rexrode.

Saturday visitors of Tom and Paula Mitchell were Libby Kiracofe, Jack Puffenbarger and James Earl and Charlsie Puffenbarger. The foursome from Bridgewater, VA, enjoyed the Maple Festival festivities.

Donnie and Marty Smith were weekend visitors of Evelyn Varner.


old Allison Hoover. Other dinner guests were Diane and Ernie Havener, Gene and Joyce Sheffer, all of Monteruma, VA, Margaret and Bernie Sasser of Columbia, MD, Carrie Schultz and Roger and Donna Hoover, all of Franklin, John Propst, Buster Hoover, Morgan Hoover of Bridgewater, VA, and Cary, George and Jordan Hevener.

A nice gathering at the Cabin Restaurant was held on Sunday following worship service. Enjoying the lunch were Ernie and Karen Hoover of North Carolina, Sera and Gene May of Pennsylvania and Everett and Leora Grogg.

On the concern's list are following individuals: Fr Joseph, Hugh Mitchell, Mar Puffenbarger, Margaret Mit Jim Mitchell, Kermit Shirley Eckard, Calvin St Grey Keller, Leafy Rex James Keontz, Pitsenbarger, Kenneth Pr Shirley Bailey, Steve Co Conway and Arlene May ar Fannie Propst family i death of a niece in Florida Franklin Presbyterian C - Leafy Rexrode, J Vandevander, Freda Rob Carl Bowers, Paul Arboga Mullenax and Virgil and Rexrode.

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SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS
AUCTION Fri
Marc
1 p

• Ever... path... has a few puddles.

• When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

• The best sermons are lived, not preached.

• Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

• Don't judge folks by their relatives.

• Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

• Live a good, honorable life.

Wind Power...

(Continued From Page 1, Column 6)

say that the 20-year power purchase agreement might clinch

PSC siting certificate approval for the proposed Jack Mountain project, he did say, "We want to make sure the turbines at both sites are turning by December 2007 so that Pendleton and Grant counties can benefit from the revenue the projects will provide."

Maisno noted both the Pendleton and Grant sites have "class four-five winds under the Department of Energy's wind resource classification system." Class five winds are the best wind resources in the mid-Atlantic region of the US.

US WindForce is developing

Homan of Shepherdstown. While here, they visited in the home of Bill and Ruth Bowers.

Ann Thompson of Riverton paid a Sunday afternoon visit with Jim and Linda Rexrode.

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Donnie and Marty Smith were weekend visitors of Evelyn Varner.

Jill and Taylor Holmes of Bridgeport were weekend visitors of Junior and Jeanne Homan.

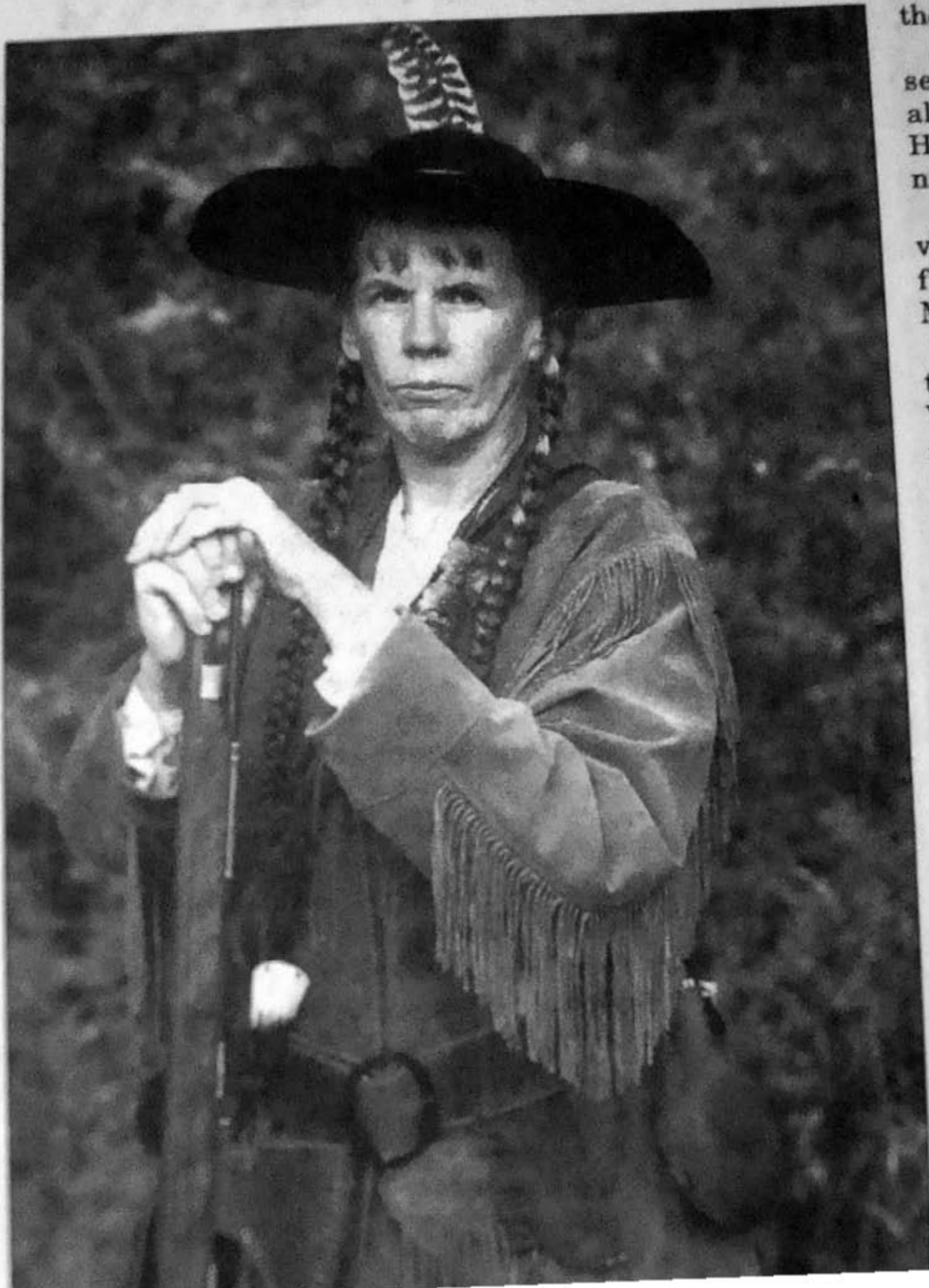
The Sugar Grove Lions Club members enjoyed a cruller dinner at the home of Tom and Paula Mitchell. Ellen Mitchell fixed the delicious crullers and sassafras tea, which at one time was a very prevalent delicacy in this neighborhood.

Friday visitors of Doris Rexrode were Joyce Cooper and Ellen Mitchell. Her Saturday visitors were Ed and Carolyn Smith of Staunton, VA, and Kim Coffman of Sugar Grove.

Willadene Simmons accompanied Sheba Rexrode of Doe Hill, VA, to pay a visit to sister, Vada Wilfong. Rose Stahl of Harrisonburg, VA, visited her mother, Willadene, on Sunday.

Gary and Linda Malcolm of

Portrayed at CEOs Meeting



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Patty Sue Cooper as "Mad" Anne Bailey

Patty Sue Cooper of Parkersburg will portray West Virginia frontier scout "Mad" Anne Bailey (ca. 1742-1825) at Pendleton County High School. She will be performing for Pendleton County Middle School students on Friday and then on Saturday for the CEOS Keyser Area Meeting.

This West Virginia Humanities Council program is being hosted by the WVU Extension Service Pendleton County CEOS Organization and Pendleton County Middle/High Faculty Senate and is supported with additional financial assistance from the Office of the Secretary, West Virginia Department of Education and Arts.

In the late 1700s, Anne Bailey served in the Great Kanawha Valley as a buckskin-clad frontierswoman who could handle a horse, hatchet, and long rifle as well as any man. When her husband was killed in the battle of Point Pleasant in 1774, she was compelled to avenge his death and embarked on a new

life as border scout and messenger. The 1861 poem "Anne Bailey's Ride" commemorates her heroic 1791 ride along through over 100 miles of mostly wilderness when Fort Lee (Charleston) was threatened with attack to Fort Savannah (Lewisburg) and her return with desperately needed gunpowder.

Bailey is one of the many available character presentations offered through the West Virginia Humanities Council's History Alive! program as a means of exploring history by interacting with noteworthy historical figures. These programs provide audiences with the opportunity to question those who have shaped our history.

Historical characterization is the vehicle for this program. Humanities scholars have carefully researched a variety of sources about the figures they portray such as journals, letters, official documents, speeches, autobiographies and research by other scholars in developing their presentation.

Energy Purchase at Liberty Gap Critiqued by North Fork Residents

print that never made it into the Pendleton Times. It can be read at www.protectpendleton.com in normal-sized type. What the disclaimer basically does is warn investors that such deals don't always turn out as advertised. Buried in the fine print was a passing reference to the Aug. 14 2003 regional power outage. A little research revealed that on that day the largest power blackout in US history occurred, affecting 50 million electric utility customers in 8 states and some Canadian provinces as well. When it was finally sorted out, the cascading power failure was traced back to one company.

That company, FirstEnergy, had been playing fast and loose with the industry adopted rules for transmitting power on the grid. A year later, FirstEnergy paid out \$89.9 million to settle lawsuits related to the blackout. Frank Maisano picked a good partner.

The citizens of Pendleton County have an excellent chance of voiding this "deal" if they will show up in large numbers when the PSC holds public hearings in Franklin in late May, voicing their strong opposition to industrial wind turbines in our county. I am not opposed to using

wind as an energy source. Its best use is to spin the blades on home-installed units that will 1) reduce homeowners' electric bills, 2) put energy into the grid without the need for more transmission lines, and 3) encourage conservation as homeowners become more aware of both their power production and its consumption. Industrial wind turbines, on the other hand, exist only because of the many tax breaks, subsidies and guaranteed market share they have acquired thanks to a persuasive public relations campaign, a gullible public and compliant legislators.

I am opposed to industrial wind turbines because of their non-competitive mandated advantage, their minuscule power output compared to the footprint they make, and the waste of taxpayer money made available in the name of renewable energy. When it comes to Pendleton County, I am even more opposed because of the irreversible damage industrial wind turbines will do to what is unquestionably the most beautiful, unsullied county in the entire state. And don't think the Liberty Gap project will be the only one to desecrate our ridges. Once the door is open

there will be no stopping the projects sure to come.

I know many county residents who think that 400' tall towers on Jack Mountain will have no impact on them personally, living as they do in parts of the county where Jack Mountain can't be seen. I urge them to reconsider. This is not a one-time deal. Other turbines will follow as long as the government handouts remain in effect. And county residents need to consider that apart from the visual desecration of our scenic treasures, there will be a negative economic impact on the entire county: Pendleton County's economic future is predicated on making the most of what sets it apart from any other place in West Virginia: the incomparable beauty of its forested ridges rolling on to the horizon, and the fertile, farm-dotted, river valleys nestled between those ridges.

This scenery drives the tourism, outdoor recreation, and vacation and retirement home construction businesses that play an increasingly important role in the economy of our county. The tax revenues that would come to the county from the 5% scrap valuation of non-appreciating wind turbines will amount

to chump change compared to the tax revenues based on the 60% valuation of all the new and appreciating houses to be built in the next 20 years.

Don't make the mistake of thinking we can have both. Turbines on Jack Mountain will have a spillover effect on property values. Testimony was given at the SCC hearing in Monterey that when the Highland County Board of Supervisors approved the Highland New Wind project, relocation package requests to the Highland County Chamber of Commerce dropped dramatically, and one realtor testified to a 50% decline in his real estate business. I'm not saying land sales in Pendleton County will come to a standstill, but industrial wind turbines in the county will extract a hidden tax on sales in the form of lower prices that result from factoring in the possibility that other turbines will follow.

Wind turbines on Jack Mountain will cast a very long shadow on our economy. The buyers of lots in the various restricted housing communities, which are under development in the county and who are paying full price in the belief that their own particular viewshed is protected, may be

in for a rueful awakening as other ridges in Pendleton begin to sprout 400' towers.

In closing I ask those opposed to industrial wind turbines to talk to the "uncles" in the county and get their derstand that it is the county that will feel the not just the part of the where Jack Mountain. Then plan to attend and read a prepared statement your opposition to hearings in late May. The PSC will preside on what is related to hearings as it relates to provisions in WV Code. One of the provisions Commission may issue certificates if, among construction of the result in substantial impact on the local economy and I think it is the PSC - putting wind turbines on will have substantial impact on the local employment for some.

Former Pendleton Resident Says Wind Farm Will Not Be a Tourism Attraction

...the Times:
...been reading with in-
...d distress about the pro-
... farm on Jack Moun-
... have been reluctant to
... an opinion because I
... lived in Pendleton
... for many years. I am,
... a Pendleton County
... with family roots there
... back 200 years, and I will
... think of Pendleton

County as home.

Coming back to visit is a joy, and I know Pendleton County remains among the most lovely and unspoiled regions on earth. It is for this reason I feel I must urge current residents not to be duped by utility companies promising big profits and tourist business from this proposed wind project. To see the lack of respect some energy companies have for the people and land of West Virginia, one needs only to tour parts of coal fields in southern West Virginia to see the scars left by the coal companies who also promised profits to the people and little impact upon the landscape. It is only too clear to see that they lied about both, but the damage has already been done.

On the front page of the March 30, 2006, issue of "The Pendleton Times" is a picture and an article about promoting tourism in Pendleton County. Pendleton County has always been a desirable destination for the very rea-

sons shown so beautifully by Alfred Crigler's picture which will be on the cover of the forthcoming brochure for the Pendleton County driving tour CDs. It is scenery like this that brings people to Pendleton County.

The new golf course, the beauty of Seneca Rocks/Spruce Knob recreation areas, the great trout fishing, the many caves, the Treasure Mountain Festival, the Civil War history, the unspoiled beauty of the landscape, and the kindness and welcoming nature of the residents will bring tourists.

I fear the few tourists who would come to see a wind farm would leave quickly shaking their heads in amazement as to why such a scar on the landscape was allowed to occur in one of the truly pristine places on earth. The wind farm, if it becomes a reality, will be loud, unsightly, and a regrettable mistake from which the county may never recover.

I hope the current residents of Pendleton County resist efforts being made by this self-serving, poorly regulated industry whose only motivation is short-term financial gain at the risk of long-term damage to the landscape of Pendleton County. A wind farm and a thriving tourism industry in Pendleton County are mutually exclusive.

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Writer Questions How Wind Power Will Affect Us

Editor, the Times:

What are the Cumulative Affects of Industrial Wind Turbines in the Mountains?

In his recent State of the Union Address, President Bush addressed our nation's dependence on foreign oil by announcing the Advanced Energy Initiative, a 22 percent increase in clean-energy research at the Department of Energy, pushing for breakthroughs in two vital areas. First, to change how we power our homes and offices through more investment in zero-emission coal-fired plants, revolutionary solar and wind technologies and clean, safe nuclear energy and second to change how we power our automobiles through increased research into better batteries for hybrid and electric cars, and into pollution-free cars that run on hydrogen. Those are certainly necessary, but I kept waiting to hear one more initiative. Projections for the increases in energy consumption by the year 2030 are staggering. What I was hoping to hear was an initiative to provide for research into and then education of the public in ways to conserve energy consumption. The subject has not appeared in many of the articles that I have found concerning our requirement for energy in the future. We just seem to seek and find ways to fund methods to

how we power our homes and offices includes greater investment in revolutionary solar and wind technologies. The Mid-Atlantic Region, including the State of West Virginia, is experiencing the investment in wind technology through a large number of industrial wind turbine project placements throughout the region, applications filed for additional projects and many more on the drawing boards. It is estimated that in excess of 33,000 of the 1.5 Megawatt turbines are necessary to satisfy the Department of Energy goals and state mandated renewable portfolio standards for projected electric consumption in the region for the year 2030.

The West Virginia Public Service Commission is responsible for the review and approval or disapproval of applications for the siting of industrial wind turbine projects in the State of West Virginia and has published siting application rules and requirements for these industrial projects. In addition, the Public Service Commission has made efforts to safeguard and protect the public interest through special provisions in licenses issued to such projects. While these are admirable efforts, these provisions are inadequate until such time as all appropriate studies are completed concerning the cumulative affect of projects sited throughout the mountains

have irreversible affects by destroying important wildlife and wildlife habitat (including endangered species), killing huge numbers of bats, destroying highly prized scenic vistas (the viewshed surrounding these projects extends for miles), impacts on local tourism-dependent economies (in West Virginia tourism is the fastest growing industry and in our mountains it is critical to local economies) and residents by impairment of property values, significant noise pollution created by the rotors and mechanical equipment for residents living in close proximity to the turbines and undue stress to the health and safety of residents living in close proximity of the turbines.

Many federal, state and local officials are extremely concerned with the cumulative affect of siting thousands of these industrial wind turbines in the Mid-Atlantic Region and are proposing moratoriums on future construction to provide the time necessary for the completion of all re-

quired studies of the cumulative effects of industrial wind power generators and projects on the environment, citizens, state and community economics and the cost effectiveness of wind power as an alternative energy source. State agencies, which should be involved in these studies, are playing catch-up and by their own admission are not empowered to examine questions concerning these projects and their potential impacts. Even worse, the Public Service Commission is not required to seek the assistance of those same agencies in its review of a proposed project application and the required information provided therein.

How will Pendleton County be affected?

How will you be affected?

It is time to face the tough questions and to find the answers concerning the cumulative affects of industrial wind turbines in our mountains and to determine their affect on the future of West Virginia.

Larry Thomas

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Origin of Everyday Expressions Uncovered

Sugar Grove

There are certain expressions everyone uses even though they don't have a clue as to how they originated. More likely, most everyone will use the expression without ever knowing its origin.

By the bucket. This phrase dates back to the sixteenth century when people prepared pigs for slaughter by hanging them from wooden beams. This process resulted in the pigs kicking up buckets of dirt.

By your heels. This expression, which involves a race, started in the nineteenth century. The phrase was "cool your heels," which referred to the time between rides for the horses.

The ticket. This phrase is a mispronunciation of the word "etiquette." Try saying "etiquette"; if one puts the emphasis on the second syllable, one says "tik-ut." Around 1800, people said "that's etiquette" and "that's the ticket."

Blown to the wind. This refers to one who is highly intoxicated.

On old sailing ships, the crew controlled each sail with a rope called a sheet. In a storm, the rope (sheet)

would be loosened and said "to be in the wind." If all three sheets were loosened to the wind, the vessel would be staggering and reeling - like a drunk.

"Wing and a prayer." The meaning meant hopeful but unlikely to succeed. During World War I, airplanes were still a novelty and untested in war. A "wing and a prayer" was first uttered when an American flyer came in with a badly damaged wing. His fellow pilots and mechanics were amazed he didn't crash. He replied that he was praying all the way in. Another pilot chimed in that "a wing and a prayer brought you back!"

"Flying by the seat of your pants." Before airplanes had sophisticated instruments and flight control systems, planes were piloted by feel. Pilots can feel the reactions of the plane in response to their actions at the controls. Being the largest point of contact between pilot and plane, most of the feel or feedback comes through the seat of the pants. If one is "flying by the seat of one's pants," one is responding to the feedback received.

The writer hopes that all of her readers are enjoying nature's symphony. The various shades of

green, blended with the painter's palette of many spring colors in the flowers and shrubs makes the beholder realize that the Almighty Creator is awesome. The redbud is gorgeous from Hoover Mountain, through Possum Trot and south of Sugar Grove. Take time to "smell the roses."

Fuzzy and Nancy Sims and dad, Jim Seale, enjoyed a wonderful Easter celebration. It began with the sunrise service at Pine Hill Cemetery where the sun surprised all with a glorious appearance during the service. From there, they attended their

regular church service. Easter afternoon, they enjoyed the company of cousins from Nokesville, VA, Mary and George Ashley and their son, Robert, and daughter, Heidi, who resides in Harrisonburg, VA. It was a beautiful and blessed Easter Day for all.

Weekend visitors of the Dolan Grogg family were the Steven Grogg family, Stanley Hull and son of Singer's Glen, VA, and Brian Landis.

Rose Stahl of Harrisonburg, VA, motored across the mountain to spend Sunday afternoon with her mother,

Willadene Simmons. Weekend visitors of Eva and Leora Grogg were Kay McNulty of Grottoes, VA, and Icie Lea Dillon of DelB and Junior Grogg of Hinton.

The concern's list is as follows: Byrd Teter, Marcus Sites, S Bailey, Margaret Mitchell, Wilmer Bodkin family, Mitchell, Greg Keller, Koontz, Harvey Bowers, C and Arlene May, Kenneth Hurl Mitchell, Gary E Steve Cowger, Ba Simmons, Jerry Smith, Marleta Bitzer, and

Franklin Presbyterian Church - Leafy Rexrode, Hedrick, Dr. H. Byrd Teter, Arbogast, Mary Gray Dol Mullenax, Carl Bowers, Roberson, Jean Ann E Charles Thompson, Bob and Carolyn Brown.

Adkins Wins at Taxidermy Show



Christ Center

Share the Love

Friday
Speake
Music

Will Turbine Construction Devastate Springs?

Editor, the Times:

This letter is submitted for inclusion into the booklet to be presented to the Public Service Commission on Thursday, 4 May 2006 and includes reasons why my wife and I feel the wind turbines may cause irreversible damage to us personally, Pendleton County, West Virginia, and the Mid-Atlantic Coast.

My wife and I are both native to Pendleton County, having been born and raised here until we left to attend college. Upon graduation from WVU in 1970, I joined the US Navy and retired after 33-1/2 years of service in 2003. We returned to my childhood home and built our retirement house on top of a hill in Moyers one ridge to the east of Jack Mountain, approximately 1/4 mile south of the intersection of CR 25, Moyers Gap Road, and CR 21, Doe Hill Road. My farm, consisting of approximately 160 acres is completely dependent on the water on it. I have one spring that supplies water to three houses, a stream that runs north across my property and has its origin from other springs south of us within a 4-mile distance,

and a 300 foot deep well that supplies water to our new home on top of Thorn Mountain on the west side of the Doe Hill Road. **Water is critical for life** and all of the water on my farm originates underground in the immediate area. There is **NO other option** for getting water since we are located in a remote area of the county not served by a community water service. During construction of the wind turbines, Liberty Gap Wind Force will be digging and blasting with dynamite to excavate the top of Jack Mountain at each of the wind turbine sites. Dynamiting on land made up of limestone can potentially reverse or lose the underground streams causing the water to go in any direction and be unavailable for streams, springs, and wells in the area. If we lose our water supply due to alterations to underground streams and water sources, my farm will become unusable and I will be unable to continue to raise cattle as I have done since retirement. Rainfall as our only source of water would be so inadequate that I would lose my property. The water in our area is the headwaters of the Potomac River, Washington DC's source of water, and is one of the **primary** water sources for the Chesapeake Bay. Liberty Gap's potentially devastating effect on underground water, spring water

and the Potomac River is the primary cause for our opposition to the wind turbines.

Other reasons for our opposition are many and include the unsightly wind turbines themselves. Our home, being on top of Thorn Mountain, one ridge east of Jack Mountain, looks on surrounding mountain tops and valleys. Pendleton County is one of the most picturesque and beautiful counties in West Virginia and after 33-1/2 years of service in our nation's armed services with all the moves and travels that accompany that, I can testify to Pendleton County's beauty being one of the most gorgeous in the entire world. Wind turbines would mar the natural beauty we enjoy and so much looked forward to returning to during my Navy career. I have seen the turbines in Tucker County, in other states and in Europe and to my eyes, they are hideous! Don Quixote would have quite a time in West Virginia if all the wind turbines that are planned are completed. I would feel compelled to helping him destroy these monsters with flailing arms.

Yesterday, as I worked on my farm, a bald eagle flew atop one of my pine trees. What a magnificent sight! The blades of the turbines have been documented as killing large numbers of birds and bats. We rely on bats in this area that live in the limestone caves surrounding the Jack Mountain area to keep the mosquito population down. There is one very large cave on Thorn Mountain within a quarter mile of our home that is the home for thousands of bats, and their flights are all over the Thorn and Jack Mountain areas. The health concerns and nuisance of increased mosquito populations every summer is enough to not want turbines in the area that would kill mosquito-predator bats as well as the thousands of song birds including Blue Birds, Phoebe, Robins, Sparrows, Cardinals, etc., that I see on my farm routinely. Environmentally, wind turbines do not make good sense.

My wife and I love the quiet and solitude of this magnificent county. We love to go for walks over our farm, sit quietly by one of our three ponds and marvel at the beauty of the landscape, birds, and wildlife. Our farm is a beautiful respite for our children and grandchildren from the busy, noisy cities where they live but

out of choice but for a livelihood. These wind turbines have a real potential of destroying our way of life and the lives of every Pendleton County resident. So much harm has been done elsewhere in the name of progress and making money, please, please, please do not let money dictate the destruction of the beauty of Pendleton County. You are making decisions that not only will affect our lives but lives of our children and our children's children. Please do not allow Liberty Gap Wind Force to build their destructive wind turbines here in beautiful Pendleton County nor elsewhere in Wild, Wonderful West Virginia.

Sincerely,

Jack Bowers

Captain, US Navy retired

Cancer Society Volunteers Vital

Editor, the Times:

April 23-29, marks the 32nd Annual National Volunteer Week. On behalf of the American Cancer Society, I want to acknowledge the millions of people who give their time and tireless efforts to many good causes across the nation and here in Pendleton County, including our organization. Volunteers impact the community and individuals in need in ways that would not be possible without their personal commitment.

Every day in our communities, American Cancer Society volunteers support, inform and guide people fighting cancer; transport patients to treatment appointments; send strong messages to lawmakers about issues that matter to people touched by cancer; and work tirelessly to raise much-needed donations to fund life-saving research, cancer prevention and early detection awareness programs, patient support resources and other crucial services.

Volunteering truly does make a difference. Again, I want to express my appreciation to all of those who give their time and encourage others to find an organization of choice to which you can lend your time and passion.

Jennifer Bennett
Community Manager
American Cancer Society
Pendleton Chapter

GMH Hospice Board Praised

Editor, the Times:

Due to the generosity of the Grant Memorial Hospice Board, I had the opportunity to attend The Art of Caring National Hospice Gala at the Hilton Washington, on April 7. The event was attended by honorable congressional and ambassador committee members, award and honoree recipients, and those that personally the spirit of compassion through their efforts to make quality end of life care available to all people.

The care of hospice patients in the home setting presents a unique environment not found in other health care settings. Hospice patients, who often have complicated medical conditions, are cared for in a home setting by a team of caring professionals who nurture patients and their families with a patient's end of life experience.

Supporting patients deal with bereavement needs as their families grieve and arrangements are made for funeral services. Hospice

Attendance at PSC Hearings Requested

Editor, the Times:

On Feb. 20 Bob Armentrout introduced a resolution at the County Commissioners' meeting, endorsing the Liberty Gap project. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the three commissioners, which included a commitment to send the adopted resolution to the Public Service Commission, in Jim Cookman's words, "as soon as possible."

As of Apr. 25 no such letter has been received by the PSC, according to its web socket. Are Liberty Gap and the commissioners still working on the details of the "deal"? Could they be waiting until the PSC hearing in Franklin is over with before making their letter of support public, so that it is one less item on our own consent agenda?

Money Motivates The Wind Power Industry

Editor, the Times:

Some folks say that they don't really care one way or another about the wind turbine plant proposed for Jack Mountain. I would like to address those who cannot find a reason to be pro- or anti- wind turbine.

Maybe our majestic national bird doesn't thrill you, and you do not mind that there are three bald eagle nests within 10 miles of the project. Maybe you don't care about the other raptors or the migrating song birds that will also be killed. Perhaps you don't think it will bother you to be covered with mosquito bites every summer after our bat population is wiped out. Every bat eats at least its body weight in mosquitoes every night, and the motion of the turbine blades attracts them to their doom.

It could be that you are not convinced that the "washing machine" sound of the turbines will deprive you of sleep and drive off wildlife, or that the flicker of the sun behind their turning blades will distract and irritate you. You might not enjoy star-gazing, so the lighting on the turbines won't bother you at night.

Perhaps the wind turbine plant developers have convinced you that they can actually "undo" damage done to our water sources by the blasting that will be done to excavate the 40-foot holes for the bases of the

turn into rusting hulks.

Or it could be that you don't realize that industrial wind power can never become a significant source of electric power. Or maybe you just can't be bothered with this issue; it seems too removed from your world of family, job, farm, etc.; and you don't mind that the opponents of wind power in Pendleton County have never been able to be heard by the powers that be.

Well, have I got an issue for you: **money**. At www.eere.energy.gov I read, "Wind power projects bring new tax revenue to rural communities. Payments generally range from one percent to three percent of the project's value. At one percent, property tax payments would provide approximately \$10,000 per MW (megawatt) for rural communities each year." Jack Mountain is going to be a 50-turbine, 100 MW facility; therefore, per the US Energy Department quoted above, Pendleton County should receive \$1,000,000 each year ($\$10,000 \times 100\text{MW} = \$1,000,000$).

At the infamous February 1 "infomercial" the wind turbine spokesperson proposed to pay Pendleton County \$200,000 a year in property taxes. Worse, if you take the reported worth of the Liberty Gap turbines (\$100,000,000) and do the math, you come out with a mere \$70,000 per year. [$\$100,000,000$

whatever amount they pay in taxes will decrease each year; so that by the time they reach their 20th year, they will be paying virtually nothing, especially when inflation is taken into consideration.

What's going on here? Anybody else feeling snookered, gypped, hoodwinked and otherwise taken advantage of? Are the owners of the land they are leasing going to make up the difference? I doubt it. Even with all the government loans, subsidies, huge tax breaks, tax incentives, double declining depreciation etc, that the wind turbine developers are getting, they still appear perfectly willing to let the rest of us make up for the property taxes they won't pay. And how insulting to our intelligence is it to offer a measly \$1,000 a year to run transmission lines across our property?

And what about those properties in sight of the wind turbines? In other places where the turbines have gone up, the values of the properties around them have gone down. Eventually, they will be assessed for less because of their lower market value, and the county will have to raise real estate tax rates to make up for it—rates that your taxes and mine are based on, whether we live near the turbines or not.

Before the 44-turbine, 66 MW Tucker County wind project went up, big promises were made

Tucker County assessor's office, the county received the princely sum of \$92,625.14 in 2005. All the while, the property values around the wind turbines have been going down. Even the president of the Tucker County Commission admitted in the Parsons Advocate, "...they could treat our county better." Of course \$92,000 is better than a stick in the eye, as the saying goes, but it's **peanuts** for a company that makes **millions every year**; and in order to get it we would have to give up the beauty of these mountains—the one sure source of income in the years ahead, as city folks look for a reasonably close get-away from traffic, concrete, asphalt and industrialization.

I haven't mentioned the money that will be added to our electric bills to connect the wind turbines with the substation at Franklin, but you get the idea. This whole idea is just **not a good deal** for the residents of Pendleton County. Maybe **that's** an issue for you. Maybe you just don't like being treated like a fool. Leave your apathy behind, stand up and be counted.

For more information on the costs and consequences of wind turbine projects, see www.mnforsustain.org/windpower_scleede_west_virginia_part1.htm (notice that there is a link to part two just above the footnotes) and www.protectpendleton.org.

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, 26807

Commission, Liberty Gap Set Payment

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more than \$200,000 in property taxes annually, then that larger amount is what Liberty Gap or its successors will pay.
The escalating amount of the annual payment in addition to taxes is \$110,000 in years one through five, \$115,000 in years six through 10, \$120,000 in years 11 through 15 and topping out at \$125,000 in year 16.
The document says the payment in addition to taxes, or community partnership grant, can be "used, applied, distributed or expended, in any manner deemed appropriate by the commission at its sole discretion."
The document encourages the commission to "allocate a portion of the community partnership

grant" to the county school board and the county economic development authority "but places no restrictions on its distribution or use."
The terms of the document extend to Liberty Gap and "its successors" (Section 2.01).
The payment schedule would commence when the Jack Mountain facility becomes operational.
Section 4.02 of the signed agreement, called "Credit for Additional Taxes," states, "In the event any Pendleton County governmental agency, including the commission," should raise taxes on the Jack Mountain project then that additional amount can be credited against the guaran-

teed annual tax revenue.
If that revenue source is exhausted, new and additional county-levied taxes on the project can be credited against the annual community partnership grant to the point of exhaustion.
However, those credits only apply to new and additional taxes that might ever be levied at the county level.
Should the state raise the taxes on wind turbine projects, Liberty Gap or its successors will pay those new taxes and is prohibited from deducting the amount of the new and additional state taxes from the community partnership grant payment or from the guaranteed tax

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Mischlers Are Local Antecedents of the Mitchells

Sugar Grove

The first resident Lutheran pastor of Pendleton County was Peter Mischler. He arrived in America by way of the "Snow Squirrel" on Oct. 21, 1761, along with his wife, Maria Catherine Diessinger Mischler, her parents, Ebert and Anna Catherine Diessinger, and her eight siblings. Children of Peter and Maria were Maria, Peter, Jr., Catherine Elizabeth, George and John. Records indicate that on Aug. 27, 1791, Peter married Hannah Teter, a daughter of Captain Paul Teter and Rebecca Hinkle. The couple settled on the south side of Leading Creek, a branch of the Tygarts Valley River in Randolph County. Together, they had seven children. In 1797, they moved to the west side of Silver Creek, which was a part of the New Design settlement in the Northwest Territory.

During the year 1803 or 1804, the family came to Fayetteville Precinct in Indiana Territory, which is now St. Clair County, IL, by following the meandering of Silver Creek. Here, they settled as squatters on Indian land, to start their new life. On Dec. 25, 1807, they were granted permission of 320 acres for their use.

The 1810 U.S. Census, Illinois Territory, shows that Peter, Jr., was a Justice of the Peace and county commissioner. In the Sept. 17, 1818, election to organize and from the state of Illinois, the list of voters included Peter Mischler, Jr. Due to the distance and the lack of transportation and communication, not much else is known of Peter. In fact, Morton's "History of Pendleton County" does not make mention of him. The lineage of the Mitchells in this county is traced to Peter's brother, George. A direct seventh

generation descendant was Delmar Hurl Mitchell, who lived in Sugar Grove. Hurl loved tilling the soil and was a renowned farmer. He was a hard-working man who instilled that same likeness in his own four children. Hurl passed away last Saturday following several weeks of illness. To his family and friends, sincere sympathy is extended.

The Sugar Grove Senior Citizens held their regular meeting on Tuesday.

The handiwork of God is seen everywhere. The purple violets lift their faces to the sun, while the dogwood bursts into bloom against the brown hillsides. Redbuds are wearing their purple robes, which hang over the road banks. Spring peepers are singing their jubilant songs,

while the songbirds play their melodies. As new life appears, one can see God's hand blessing the hills and valleys.

Harold and Ellen Mitchell motored to Charlottesville, VA, to spend time with Wilda Stargell.

Little Maggie Conner, the 11-month-old daughter of John and Michelle Conner, underwent surgery last week. Doctors are very optimistic that she will have a full recovery.

Farmers are busy building fences, cleaning fence rows and preparing for the season's bidding. Homeowners are busy also with the lawn mowing and home improvements. The recent frosts warn landscapers and gardeners to selectively plant their flowers and vegetables.

Grady and Silas Moats, children of Bruce Moats, were

spending the week with Erma Moats. Erma, Grady and Silas Moats spent Sunday with the Karen McMillen family.

The concerns of the week are for the Hurl Mitchell family, Harvey Bowers, James and Glenna Koontz, Steve Cowger, Jerry Smith, Jim Mitchell, Greg Keller, Marcus Sites, Byrd Teter, Shirley Bailey, Omer Judy, Kenneth Propst and Conway and Arlene May; and

Franklin Presbyterian Church - Leafy Rexrode, Dessie Hedrick, Jean Ann Homan, Van Harrison, Dr. Byrd Teter, Ella Mullenax, Freda Roberson, Charles Thompson, Carl Bowers, Carolyn Brown, Paul Arbogast, Mary Gray Dolly and Marcus Sites.

Volunteers...

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

also received an appreciation award.

The guest speaker was George Eversole, chairman of the state fire commission.

Delegate Michael brought with him certificates representing three grants in the amount of \$15,000 apiece for the SFVFD and the South Fork Rescue Squad. He noted that he and Senator Walt Helmick work closely together on behalf of the county in Charleston.

The evening began with a mo-

Roy Bowers (chief), Stacy Bolton (assistant chief), Clinton Eye (Brandywine captain), Nathan Parker (Brandywine lieutenant), Kendon Tichenor (Sugar Grove captain), Mike Simmons (Sugar Grove lieutenant), Greg Dyer (Fort Seybert captain), Albert Evick (Fort Seybert lieutenant), Wayne Huffman (training officer) and Doug Pitsenbarger (safety officer).

In addition to Jeff Bowers and Wayne Huffman, the administrative officers are Nathan Parker (secretary) and Nila Bland (treasurer).

The Sound That Sells
T. Weaver, Auctioneering

LOTS

1st & 3rd Wednesday
The Rushville™ Hay Auction will be
day, May 3rd. We will hold the hay
on the G&W Ambulance lot. This
available at the new site later. This

Tom M. Weaver (540) 867-4
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Bring Hay to Sell a

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Vote for a Change
William (Bill) Hartman
for
County Commission
Qualified Experienced

Wind Power Guarantees Sought

Editor, the Times:

Since my home and farm is located in Moyers, some three miles from the proposed wind tower project on Jack Mountain, I would like to voice my thoughts and concerns regarding this proposed project.

Little has been said or written about the wind towers in Holland and Germany, which have had wind towers for some 20 to 40 years and are discontinuing and phasing out their wind towers because they have found that the wind towers are not a cost effective source of electricity for them!

Other than a tax write off for the wealthy—WHAT IS THE BENEFIT of this source of electricity and WHO would be reaping the benefits? My understanding is there is no benefit to the State of West Virginia and Liberty Gap has not provided any guaranteed income to the county. Shouldn't all figures involving both income and time be guaranteed before any contracts are signed?

If and when Liberty Gap was to provide these guarantees and their big TAX WRITE OFF is used up—WHO will be responsible for the dismantling and

ITED LIABILITY CORPORATION! Shouldn't they have to provide a large bond, establish a large escrow account over time and provide insurance to cover any problems or lawsuits that may develop along the way?

What will the blasting, putting in roads and setting concrete structures do to the caves, sink holes, etc, to Sandy Ridge and Moatstown residents, as well as others a short distance away?

Furthermore, since this is a rural area where sources of income are from livestock, how will the farm animals be affected, not only by the continual noise, but "daylight" 24 hours a day? And, no one knows (nor seems to care) what effect these turbines would have, if allowed to be built, on the bat population, birds, wildlife animals such as deer, turkey and squirrels.

Until such time that Liberty Gap will provide written guarantees on income, realistic liability coverage, insurance covering damages and termination of the project, our Public Service Commission should not grant approval or sign any contracts with any wind tower facility.

Sincerely,
E. P. Puffenbarger

Overwhelming 'No!' Voiced at PSC Hearing

[state] voters would support a wind energy project in the county in which they live" and "that 81 percent of Tucker County voters support the state's only existing wind project—the Mountaineer Wind Energy Center on Backbone Mountain."

However, given the overwhelming amount of often fervent testimony given in opposition to the Jack Mountain proposal at Thursday's hearings, the 70 percent number may not reflect public opinion in Pendleton County.

One of the four locals speaking in favor of the Liberty Gap project was county commission

president Bob Grimm, whose remarks were brief. He handed members of the PSC's administrative staff an envelope containing the commission's written brief on behalf of the wind power proposal.

Also speaking in favor of the proposal was Dick Waybright, the executive director of the influential West Virginia Forestry Association.

Waybright said the association he represents supports the wind power project because the organization also staunchly supports the property rights of private landowners, including their right to use and develop their land as they see fit within the permis-

sible parameters of the law.

Another reason given by Waybright focused on what supporters consider to be the positive aspects of wind power—that wind power is a clean, renewable, domestic source of energy.

A representative of the trade and construction unions in the state also spoke in favor of the project, citing primarily the economic benefits of industrial wind power development, particularly job creation during the construction phase of wind turbine facilities.

Tom Matthews, the president of US WindForce, also spoke briefly and emphasized the guaranteed revenue stream the taxes

on the project and community partnerships will bring.

A Virginia resident owner in Fort Conrad, indicated development of wind nation's interest reducing the nation of imported oil power is clean a

"Environment served, "are cry in this country."

He pointed to self-described e than Robert K ports options su yet opposes of bines near the state—that Ke the "not in m drome.

Conrad also top of Jack M gedy," an asse disputed later the mountain

(Continued on

Logs 7,955 Volunteer Hours



Cassell and Grey Cassell (South Fork).

Recognized for five years of service were Rose McNulty, Dave Ellis, James Ryan, Terry Ryan, Richard Vajs and Wayne Hoffmann (Franklin). Greg

board of directors are Randy Bennett (captain), Anita Warner and Ray Day.

Members of the Upper Tract board of directors are Mike Alt (captain), Sue Alt and Delbert Mowery

The

Wind Foe Calls Turbines in WV an Epidemic

Editor, the Times

There is a contagious epidemic of wind turbines raging in West Virginia. As of May 2006 the PSC has reviewed five applications for wholesale wind power electric generating facilities and the interconnecting transmission line and related facilities. Three have been permitted and two are under consideration, one in Pendleton and one in Greenbrier County. The project in Pendleton County is just one of many proposed for West Virginia.

In Tucker County there are 44 operating turbines. Permitted for Grant County are 300 turbines. Under deliberation by the PSC are 124 turbines in Greenbrier County and 49 in Randolph County, this adds up to 567. This figure does not include unknown numbers of turbines in Mineral, Preston, Barbour counties and a new small project in Grant County to the north of the already permitted projects that, since January of this year, have been proposed for study and approval by PJM our regional transmission organization. Determining exact numbers is impossible but there are hundreds of turbines slated for our region.

The May 6 2006 Roanoke Times reports that Invenenergy Wind LLC, the applicant in the Beech Ridge project in Greenbrier County is conducting preliminary studies into whether a wind farm could generate up to 81 megawatts of electricity on Bent and Poor mountains in Roanoke County Virginia this would be an additional 50 turbines.

A study released in 2002 by the US Public Interest Research Group stated, "full exploitation of West Virginia's wind potential as estimated by PIRG would mean construction of nearly

2,500 wind turbines in WV"

In his paper Reevaluating Wind Energy Industrial Development in the Mid-Atlantic David Riposo from The University of Maryland, Department of Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Science stated "in the coming years, the wind energy industry will grow explosively in Mid-Atlantic states. Riposo examines the adverse economic, environmental and social consequences. He concludes, "Investments in wind energy in the Mid-Atlantic are providing a small quantity of low quality electricity, exacting a largely unknown and potentially profound environmental impact; and providing

no appreciable economic benefit to many of the rural communities that host wind facilities."

We at Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County, after extensive study of the impact and benefits of industrial wind turbines situated on Appalachian ridge tops, believe these projects are not appropriate for the Eastern part of the U.S. We believe that they are an enormous waste of taxpayer's money. These projects can be stopped. Please join us in preserving the beauty of Pendleton County and Wild and Wonderful West Virginia.

Eve Firor
May 8, 2006

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LOTTERY**

PNH Schedules

THE PENDLETON TIMES

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, 26807

Thursday
May 18, 2006

The Highlands Swings into Business

"Many people could have done what I did. But no one could have done what Bill Ward did... but Bill Ward."

Rob Locklin uttered those words on Monday afternoon in a casual conversation with a group of four golfers who were enjoying hamburgers—big juicy ones—at the clubhouse after the four men had played a morning round of 18 holes on the challenging links of West Virginia's newest championship caliber golf course, the Highlands Golf Club.

Locklin made the statement in response to praise from a golfer from Petersburg, one who is among the first to have birdied number 10, the new course's signature, island green.

Number 10 is a par four hole. (To those not yet initiated into the sport's splendor or its intricacies, a birdie means the golfer needed just three shots instead of four to put the ball in the hole.)

The birdie was recorded by Carroll Michael, the oldest brother of Delegate Harold K. Michael.

The Michael brothers were tennis, one of whom was Buddy Eye, Charlie Burgoyne's uncle.

Those four men love the game of golf, and their enthusiasm for the course designed by Bill Ward and his son, Chris, was unbridled.

Delegate Harold K. Michael visited the course for the first time not long before its official opening last Friday.

His first visit occurred on a recent Friday afternoon in late April.

He pronounced the course "beautiful," the clubhouse "very impressive" and returned for a second, closer look the following day.

That Friday, however, he also confided a concern.

Momentary concerns can be difficult and not always entirely fun to play. They risk being the kind of concerns that can deal a crushing blow even to a skilled player's ego.

"Someone who takes a lot of pride and satisfaction in his game," Michael wondered, "will be get frustrated and mad his first time here and then never come back?"

It was Senator Walt Helmick who took the lead in structuring state loan assistance in the development of the new golf course, a financial arrangement from which Pendleton County and economic development projects have stand to benefit enormously.

And, on receipt, it was Del-



THE HIGHLANDS GOLF Club is poised to become known as a course reflecting the grandeur of Pendleton County's mountain beauty. The island green fountain, top, is lit at night. Course designer Bill Ward, above, sends an approach shot toward the 16th green. The clubhouse, center, sports a modern design and has four wide-screen hi-def TVs. A golfer, far right, tees off at 7:00 a.m. on opening day. Ward made scenic use of the old barn, bottom, on the number seven fairway.

egate Michael who hailed Senator Helmick all the way, quietly leading to the project the full weight of his considerable authority and prestige in Charleston.

But that's Harold Michael, waddler of political power.

There's another Harold Michael—a typical, accessible, next-door-neighbor type of guy who, plain and simple, just loves a good game of golf, an average guy who considers a good day on the links in the company of friends and family to be a good day, indeed.

It was that guy, the one known simply as "Harold" rather than as "Delegate Michael," who, on Monday, having already played the course a few times, offered



the following assessment: "This course can take its place with the finest golf courses in this part of the country—with Stonewall, Pete Dye, the Raven at Snowshoe, Canaan, the Cascades—with all of those and other major golf courses, too."

And how does the course play, he was asked; is it too hard or perhaps even too easy?

Booming like a youth on Christmas morning, he said, "Bill Ward hit the sweet spot."

Asked to elaborate, Michael continued, "It looks grown-in. Normally it takes a course three or four years to be grown-in like

this."

Next, he talked about the minimalist design aesthetic Bill and Chris Ward used, a style now in vogue with esteemed national courses—such as new courses in Arizona, Eye noted—that aspire to grandeur and drama, that take advantage of their natural settings rather than bulldoze them into submission.

(That comment pleased Bill Ward when informed of it later in the day. He said, "My idea for the course was that it would look like God designed it, or that 90 percent of it was the work of God and 10 percent was just me tinkering with it a little bit around the edges, putting in some trees and greens. I was striving for a

'wow' effect. I wanted each hole to be an, 'Oh, my gosh,' hole. I'm proud of it. I've never worked harder on any course I've ever done. I'll say that.")

Delegate Michael went on to talk about the fun and the challenge of the course's "undulating greens," which are a signature of courses designed by Ward and are an example of what Michael meant when he said Ward's design had "hit the sweet spot."

(The opposite of a course featuring Ward's undulating greens is one that's essentially flat, like a billiards table.)

Delegate Michael said a lot of golf courses have only one hole or maybe a couple of holes the

(Continued on Page 7, Column 1)

County Students Earn First Place Honors at State Social Studies Fair

Early Voting in Town

Letters to the Editor

Writer Analyzes Many Facets of Wind Power

Editor, the Times:

Oversized Wind Turbines—No substitute for the big "Energy" picture

Richard Perez, the energy guru and publisher of *Home Power* magazine, says: "ALL particles—electrons, protons, photons, gravitons and all the remaining huge list—are fictional entities that we use to describe disturbances or anomalies in space and time. While we can manipulate energy, we really don't have a clue as to what it actually is." His view is obviously quite spiritual—recognizing the extreme limitations of human understanding.

WHEN someone comes to town and approaches the Pendleton County Commission and citizens to offer us this wonderful opportunity to participate in their "well thought-out" approach for dealing with the energy crisis, everyone is taken by surprise. A preparatory course for knowing how to think about

or deal with this kind of issue has not been available. Then, we hear the all too familiar line, "You'd better take advantage of this offer right away or you're gonna miss out." I wonder...Maybe we should take a rain check on this one for about five years or so.

IT MIGHT BE that the promoters have more concern about money in their bank than they do about a comprehensive approach to energy options. One of the oldest messages in history is, "follow me, I know what I'm doing!" Napoleon said it (as did many others before him)...well, that didn't quite work out according to plan. Most of us know of many other instances where foolhardy misguided judgments have led to nightmare consequences. We do like to think that, when someone approaches us with the statement that they are experts in such-and-such, we should give them the benefit of the doubt and buy what they're selling. If, however, they have graduated from the school of bigger-is-better, then there's plenty

of room for doubt about their so-called expertise. Nowadays, bigger is more likely to be a reference to the corruption behind the scenes (particularly in connection with energy ventures).

"DO UNTO OTHERS as you would have others do unto you" means put yourself in the position of others living in juxtaposition to the proposed energy factories. What will it do to that special home property that they have been husbanding for years and hoping to be able to pass on to their children. If, however, you don't care, then we need a few more Sundays in the week to get the message across. This is not a time for apathy or a "What...me worry?" attitude. Favor your neighbors who prefer to be caretakers of the land rather than desecrators. This should always be a primary consideration, especially in matters of such proportions; and here also, don't be taken in by the "thirty pieces of silver."

PUTTING THIS OFF for 'five years or so' doesn't mean sitting around with out hands in our pockets. There are several wind energy companies, and some are smart enough to recognize that unique approaches are needed in unusual types of terrain and that certain settings are inappropriate. They are willing to take the time to look for imaginative proposals that don't offend people's sensibilities or their lifestyles. What we need are "out of sight" and "multitasking" approaches without the high-voltage power lines running all over the mountain sides.

THE PLANNED imposition on the country can also be treated as a wake-up call turned into an exploration of the many possi-

bilities that should be involved in any comprehensive energy planning. We should be facing a situation where some of the hidden talents of Pendleton are called upon to work together in a search for innovative energy-related ideas. Once the foundations are realized, other West Virginia counties can follow our lead. In the meantime, such a move should prompt the State of West Virginia to come up with some sort of rebate plan for the county as a whole for energy-renewable and energy-saving devices. The minute we come up with our own designs and innovations, Pendletonians can get items that suit their needs (at cost), and OUR additional production (resulting from real jobs) can be sold elsewhere for profit.

IN REFERENCE to the term "comprehensive," it makes no sense for any county in West Virginia to participate in what is here promoted as an essential contribution to a new national energy policy which is at best piecemeal or even non-existent, i.e. why should WV donate parts or all of its mountain ranges to a project for sending power to far regions which are in no way involved in any energy conservation plan. This is not like sending food and clothing to the needy in New Orleans. It is a bit more like an expanding demand connecting up to just another supplier. Does this give you that deep down warm sense of patriotism every time you think of it? It doesn't do it for me! I'm getting along in years, so when I think of 'comprehensive,' I think of World War II and rationing of all kinds (bacon, butter, sugar, gas and on and on). There was a sense that most of us were reading off the same page in most parts of the country. What we had then was competent leadership and a sense of purpose.

NOT HAVING a true down to earth energy policy is a little like invading a country without having a serious followup plan. That kind of shortsighted overview should mean, as far as Gigantic Wind Turbines are concerned, WE WON'T PLAY!

RECENTLY, our Senator Wood

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Monday
Lunch: 11:30 to 2:30
Dinner Buffet: 5:30 to 8:30



ON MAIN STREET IN MONTEREY
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THANKS VOTERS!

I would like to offer a sincere THANK YOU to the voters of Pendleton County who supported my bid for a seat on the Board of Education. I pledge to do my best while working with the Superintendant.

May 15 to June 5
Is Time to Click It
Or Get a Ticket

Editor, the Times:

Police officers in West Virginia know from experience that the

for knowing how to think about...
granted from the school or...
gur-is-better, then there's plenty

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Sincerely,
Rick GILLESPIE

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PT6013393 JUST LISTED on Anderson Hill in Franklin. Lovely 4 BR 2 BA home perfect for the growing family. Partially finished basement with large family room. Wood floors in the foyer and living room. Unbelievable master BR with large walk-in closet. Office, laundry room, utility room, oversized single car garage. Broad yard, and wonderful view. \$160,000.

7891328 NEW LISTING - Nice cabin in Buck Ridge. Easy access at top of ridge. This cabin has had a lot of care put into it and is in ready to move in condition. Lots of nice extras. We move quickly. \$79,000.

75500064 - 33 UNDER CONTRACT - Beautiful stream. Excellent hunting with several camps. Good views. Mostly wooded. \$92,500.

75344831 - with 4 BR 2 BA, this 3100 sq ft home is a lot of house for the money. Almost completely remodeled within the past 2 years. Located in Petersburg. \$185,000.

75348325 - REDUCED \$275,900. Beautiful, spacious, 4 BR, 2 BA home with full basement on .67+ ac lot on Anderson Hill in Franklin. Price \$290,000. 1720 sq. ft. This is an outstanding property. \$265,000.

around with out hands in our pockets. There are several wind energy companies, and some are smart enough to recognize that unique approaches are needed in unusual types of terrain and that certain settings are inappropriate. They are willing to take the time to look for imaginative proposals that don't offend people's sensibilities or their lifestyles. What we need are "out of sight" and "multitasking" approaches without the high-voltage power lines running all over the mountain sides.

THE PLANNED imposition on the country can also be treated as a wake-up call turned into an exploration of the many possi-

May 15 to June 5 Is Time to Click It Or Get a Ticket

Editor, the Times:

Police officers in West Virginia know from experience that the worry of getting a traffic ticket is sometimes the only motivation for motorists and their passengers to buckle up their safety belts. That's why law enforcement officers here and across the country are joining the national Click It or Ticket Mobilization this May.

From Friday, May 15 through Sunday, June 5, officers will conduct Click It or Ticket concentrated patrols and high profile road checks at points all over the state enforce West Virginia's seat belt law.

Teens and young adults are really at risk. Motor vehicle crashes are still the leading cause of death for teenagers and young adults in America. According to the National Highway Safety Administration (NHTSA), 59 percent of passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes weren't wearing their safety belts in 2002.

Bottom line is, law enforcement officers would rather write someone a ticket than find that person dead or critically injured because they weren't restrained in a crash. High visibility enforcement like Click It or Ticket has proven effective to increase safety belt use in West Virginia, so officers will be ticketing unbelted drivers and their passengers.

So, wear your safety belt every trip, every time - and encourage your teens and passengers to do the same. Or, risk getting a

i.e. why should WV donate power to a project for sending power to far regions which are in no way involved in any energy conservation plan. This is not like sending food and clothing to the needy in New Orleans. It is a bit more like an expanding demand connecting up to just another supplier. Does this give you that deep down warm sense of patriotism every time you think of it? It doesn't do it for me! I'm getting along in years, so when I think of "comprehensive," I think of World War II and rationing of all kinds (bacon, butter, sugar, gas and on and on). There was a sense that most of us were reading off the same page in most parts of the country. What we had then was competent leadership and a sense of purpose.

NOT HAVING a true down to earth energy policy is a little like invading a country without having a serious followup plan. That kind of shortsighted overview should mean, as far as Gigantic Wind Turbines are concerned, WE WON'T PLAY!

RECENTLY, our Senator Byrd reminded me that the West Virginia anthem praises the beauty of our mountains as a major feature of this state. When we look at the possibility that many of these majestic mountains may be crowned with multitudes of less than majestic turbines, it suggests the possibility that a large number of anthem copies are going to have to be trashed (along with the mountains). That's a sad prospect!

Two final notes: THE PROPOSED turbine structures together with their massive concrete foundations would be guaranteed to add excessive flood height and thus more destructive power to any 1985-type flood on the South Branch of the Potomac. The "Waters of Coweeta Study" done some years ago in New York state verifies that. A massive amount of site erosion would be likely to accompany such a deluge. And should that occur...I doubt that the LLC builders would want to stop by to "take credit" for their handiwork.

John F. Kennedy summarized the problem best in his forward to Stuart Udall's book, *The Quiet Crisis*. "The race to preserve the common estate is far from won...it cannot be won until each American makes preservation of the beauty and bounty of the American earth his personal commitment."

Kenneth James Fassler

REDDIS
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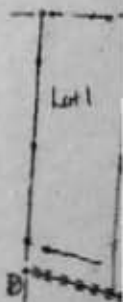
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No Windfall for County Schools

Although the information was not part of the board of education's regular meeting last Wednesday, superintendent Doug Lambert, in an interview, said there is information that county residents absolutely need to know.

When property taxes in the county go up, the total revenue for this county's school system does not increase.

Yes, Lambert explained, the share generated by local taxes brings more money to the county school budget, but, because of how the state's school funding formula works, state aid decreases when the local, county-generated share increases.

Finance director J. P. Mowery recently informed the Pendleton County Board of Education that, for the upcoming 2006-07 fiscal year, the "local share (the amount generated for education from local taxes) rose to \$1,665,788, increasing from \$1,494,402 last year, which represents an 11.5 percent in-

crease. Although the information was not part of the board of education's regular meeting last Wednesday, superintendent Doug Lambert, in an interview, said there is information that county residents absolutely need to know.

cal share increases, state aid declines by the same amount, so there is no direct benefit to the school system."

At last Wednesday's meeting of the Pendleton County Board of Education at the middle/high school, five students and their parents were recognized for bringing statewide recognition to Pendleton County because of their academic achievements.

Those students were Bryan Simmons, the Eastern Regional Science Fair junior high school grand prize winner, Tiffany Parker and Ginger Beatty, Golden Horseshoe winners, and Laurel Beatty and Anne Mallow, the high school valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

In business matters, board members were informed that the proposal to sell land in the Monongahela National Forest, transferring tracts from the public sector to private hands, will not happen, that the proposal will not receive Congressional approval.

being evaluated and will be ready for board approval at the first meeting in June.

A letter from county commission president Bob Grimm confirming that the Franklin High School class pictures in the community building remain the property of the county school system was entered into the minutes of the meeting.

The board will send a letter to Olin and Donna Hoover thanking them for the efforts culminating in getting the class pictures into the community building.

Acting after having consulted with the county attorney, the school board agreed to the annexation proposal from the Town of Franklin. That proposal calls for the annexation of a portion of property near the Cedar Hill Cemetery. It would not impact the school system's tax base.

The board heard a request from the county emergency rescue service that, in the event of a major local disaster, any school

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Letters to the Editor

Local Property Tax 'Stream' Analy

Times:

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cent going to the state. In the school board case any increase that receives is immediately matched by a decrease in the money from the state, therefore, any increase in tax receipts does not provide the school system with one more penny to spend.

The tax income for the county general fund is determined by a convoluted set of computations. Although the assessed value of property increased \$44,422,000 (15%), the county was only allowed to increase the property tax it could receive—\$49,000 (4.9%), for the coming 2007 fiscal year. Of the increase, I understand that two-thirds (\$32,667) must go to the assessor's office, leaving one-third (\$16,333) for the county general fund. To con-

form with the state statues, the county commission had to reduce the tax rate on the several classes of property.

While it is not possible to accurately project the activity for FY2008, it can reasonably be assumed that it will follow the pattern of the past. The assessed property value will increase due to reassessment and the increase allowed in tax collection will be about \$51,000. The county general fund would receive \$17,000.

What happens to the \$200,000 that LGWP, LLC promises to add to the "tax stream" that many citizens thought would help the county commission to improve the county? The money will be added to the computations and will not change the funds avail-

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Bob Tucker

Who is Truly Served by the Medication Industry

Editor, the Times:

...any changes have occurred
alth care in recent decades,
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o reduce pain. The same

doctors who issued the death sentence, and insisted that I needed eight times as much pain medication as the average person to control pain, refused to increase my pain medication on the premise that I could become addicted to it. That addiction, by their own predictions, would last less than three months when death would settle the issue seemed to make no difference to them. Because of their insanity, I suffered unmercifully and unnecessarily. I have watched that flawed mentality grow like the cancer that has unsuccessfully tried to claim my life many times since that incident.

Today, for example, it is apparently against the law for most doctors to prescribe penicillin, the cheap, effective wonder drug that has saved millions of lives worldwide since its discovery. In their words, many if not most doctors insist they aren't going

to "keep throwing penicillin at the problem." Instead, they favor batteries of high cost tests followed by the prescription of antibiotics with prices in the stratosphere, antibiotics that in many cases have side effects more dangerous than the original medical problem. If penicillin controlled the problem in the past, and the problem resurfaced, doctors reason this is proof that penicillin does not work. That is dangerously flawed logic. Any medicine man in the most primitive of societies knows that an infection can return, time and time again, and that the same medication that controlled the bacteria before can do so again. If not then, the medicine man raises the ante

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Sincerely,
Kenneth

Writers Call for North Farm Landowner Solidarity

Editor, the Times:

more farms are sold to C

ENDLETON NURSING HOME

Representatives on Wednesday. The bill now goes to the Senate for its consideration.

and waterways have inspired American artists from painters and photographers to musicians

Moreover, two wall-hanging mountain-made quilts are on display, and the show features

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Legislature Passes on Wind Bill

The legislation proposed by Governor Joe Manchin calling for a moratorium on wind power facilities within 20 nautical miles of an airport was not taken up during last week's brief special session of the West Virginia Legislature.

Senate Bill 1003 called for a study of the effect of wind power facilities on homeland security and national defense infrastructure, such as radar operations and low-altitude airplane flights, and also called for a study of the impact of wind power facilities on the "health, welfare, safety and well-being of the general public."

The bill was pulled from the special session agenda on Wednesday, the day after it was included on the governor's call

for the session, which was convened late on Tuesday afternoon.

West Virginia MetroNews reported that there wasn't enough time during the session to deal fully with Senate Bill 1003.

Two controversial wind power projects, in Pendleton and Greenbrier counties, have requests for citing certificates pending before the state Public Service Commission (PSC).

The citing certificates may be granted or denied by a vote of the three PSC commissioners, one of whom was appointed by Governor Manchin. The two other commissioners were in place when Manchin took office in 2005.

Also, a powerful member of the West Virginia Congressional delegation, Allan Mollohan, is an adamant and outspoken oppo-

ment of industrial-scale wind power development in this state.

Should the Democrats re-gain control of the US House of Representatives in the November elections, Congressman Mollohan, who represents the state's northern 1st District, would be the ranking majority member on the powerful House appropriations committee and in line to become that committee's chairman.

Should that occur, Mollohan would be in a position to steer federal largesse to West Virginia.

Congressman Nick Rahall, who represents Greenbrier County in the state's 3rd Congressional District, has also expressed misgivings about widespread industrial wind power development in West Virginia.

On Thursday, MetroNews reported that state legislators "will likely return to the wind farms later this year in a special session focused on tax issues."

Wind power facilities in this state are taxed at salvage value. Some legislators support changing the classification for wind farms so that more tax revenue can be collected.

Frank Maisano, a spokesman for US WindForce and for wind power development companies in the Mid Atlantic region, told MetroNews, "The project has to be competitive to be able to sell the power so the tax plan always has to be fair. So, I think, we'll look forward to having that conversation with the governor, with state legislators, with the communities that are involved in this."

Tri-County Fair Set for Aug. 1-5

The 86th annual Tri-County Fair will be held Aug. 1-5 at the fairgrounds in Petersburg.

Country music trio, Shenandoah, and 17-year-old Kyle Earley will be the headliners Friday evening for the big country music grandstand show.

Other entertainment will include the queen scholarship pageant on Tuesday, finals for the Tri-County Fair Star co-sponsored by Oldies Radio WELD on Wednesday and evening of gospel music with two family groups, Eddie Lee and Anointed and Jody Brown Indian Family Parade will be Wednesday evening at 6 p.m.

Daily livestock shows will be held as follows: Thursday

market lamb and breeding cattle; Wednesday - feeder calf; Thursday - breeding sheep and market steer; and Friday - market hog. Special events will include the pig scramble, lamb costume contest, pedal power, pet show, good ole country games, PBS Kids, and a lamb obstacle course, to name a few.

The junior horse show will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday with the fair's horse show on Saturday, starting at 11 a.m. with a break at 4 p.m. for the jousting tournament by Knights of the South Branch Valley.

The last big event will be the junior livestock sale starting at 5 p.m. on Saturday. All livestock special awards will be given prior to the sale.

Reunion Etiquette Explored by Writer

Sugar Grove

Every family connects in its own way. Reunions are connecting rituals that pull together families that have changed shape over time. Far flung cousins and bumper crops of babies are included. It's fascinating to celebrate and discover the family culture elements that are common with one's ethnic group. The impulse to hold a reunion is to honor those who have made one's life possible. It is also a good time to reflect on how those ancestors still affect one's life. Genealogy is an enormous jigsaw puzzle, and one cannot be sure all of the pieces even exist. Assembling it goes piece by piece - until Internet came. That changed everything. The Internet collapses distance and time; the New World and the Old World shake hands and fuse. With the help of Judy Martin, also known as Miss Manners, one has the following reunion commandments:

1. Thou shalt not forget thine ordinary manners nor thy common civility, just because thou are amongst thy brothers and sisters.
2. Thou shalt tolerate the tiresome relative (at least for a little while).
3. Thou shalt not play footsie with a distant cousin or thy cousin's spouse.
4. Sniping and carping about a reunion's lack of organization is an abomination.
5. Thou shalt orchestrate spontaneous praise unto the reunion organizer.
6. Thou shalt not talk about everything under the sun. Agree to disagree, and steer clear of such topics as the War in Iran, abortion rights, gay marriage, gun control.
7. Parents shall not use intimate details of their kids' lives as conversational fodder. Boasts of children's accomplishments are acceptable.
8. Thou shalt not reveal devastating family secrets about thyself or others unless thou hast arranged therapeutic support system.

9. Thou shalt not publicly criticize the bad manners or poor behavior of any child not thine own.

10. Thou shalt flatter thy kinfolk - falsely or not. All nieces tap dance divinely, all babies are beautiful, and all aunts look as wonderful as ever.

The very nature of a family reunion directs one's thoughts to the passage of time, and to preserve the present for future generations.

The late Charles and Jenny Pitsenbarger descendants and friends gathered at the home of Ed and Mildred Kiser for a Sunday reunion. The last living child of Charles and Jenny, Iva Eye, was unable to attend. Everyone enjoyed the covered dish and time together.

Enjoying a Nags Head, NC, vacation with family and friends this past week were Carrie Schulz of Franklin and Tom and Paula Mitchell.

A surprise Father's Day visit with Bob and Judy Grimm was paid by son and family, T.J., Shannon and Emily Grimm of Ohio. Everyone enjoyed the weekend together.

The Dolan Grogg family enjoyed a Monday evening cookout at the home of the Steven Grogg family. Weekend visitors of the Dolan Grogg family were the Steven Grogg family.

Weekend visitors of Erma Moats were Bill and Betty Watkins of Charles Town, Ronnie Pitsenbarger and Karen and Logan McMillen.

This past week's visitors of Everett and Leora Grogg were Judy Austin of Harrisonburg, VA, K.D. Puffenbarger, Marleta Bitzer, Leana Leap and Lisa Rian of Dayton, VA.

Bob and Brenda Fisher met their son, Robby, at Pano's Restaurant in Harrisonburg, VA, for a Father's Day dinner on Sunday.

Erma, Jim, Karla, Tuesday and Montana Moats have returned home after traveling over 4,000 miles across the United States. After flying to Tucson, AZ, and meeting up with Karla's parents, Charles and

Gerry Koenig, formerly of Upper Tract, the gang spent seven days enjoying such sites as Tombstone, Old Tucson Studios (where many western movies were filmed), De Grazia Gallery, Kitt Peak National Observatory, Saguaro National Park and many of Arizona's other beautiful locations. With the temperature at a lovely 112°, the family then headed to Phoenix, AZ, where they picked up Mark Koenig and set out for the Petrified Forest, Montezuma's Castle and the Painted Desert. Spending three days in the Flagstaff, AZ, area, they all enjoyed visiting the Grand Canyon and Sedona. After bidding farewell to Mark, the next six days were spent in Yellowstone National Park, Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Memorial in South Dakota and heading eastward towards home. Stopping in St. Louis, MO, and going up 630 ft. to the top of the famous arch, they enjoyed a bird's eye view of the city. A wonderful time was had by all but they are happy to return to beautiful, wild, wonderful West Virginia.

Recent visitors of Doris Rexrode were Carolyn and Ed Smith of Staunton, VA, Willard Rader and Naomi Mitchell.

Junior and Jeanne Homan motored to Bridgeport to spend the weekend with Jill, Taylor and Scott Holmes.

Many hands make work lighter. Reid Homan was busy in the hayfield, as are most farmers. Helping him with that

chore were Dale Homan of Shepherdstown, Tom and Ben Homan of Charleston and John Homan of Shepherdstown.

Sunday was a lovely day to visit, and that is just what Jim and Linda Rexrode and Doris Rexrode did. They visited Ed and Carolyn Smith of Staunton, VA. Carolyn entered the hospital on Monday to have surgery on her leg.

Visitors of Willadene Simmons were as follows: Jerry Smith on Friday, Rose Stahl on Friday and Saturday and Vada Wilfong and Vernon Propat on Saturday.

Enjoying a Father's Day brunch at The Highlands Golf Course Clubhouse were George, Cary and Jordan Hevener and Harold and Ellen Mitchell.

This week's concerns are for the Virgie Harper family, the Tiffany Koontz family, Junior Harper, Eugene Harper, Harvey Bowers, Ruth Bowers, Byrd Teter, Susan Putz, Marcus Sites, Bonnie Wimer, Harlan Mitchell, Maggie Conner, Billy Puffenbarger, Connie Clayton Cheryl Mills, Marleta Bitzer Willadene Simmons, Doris Rexrode, Jean Ann Homan Sandy Bennett and Conway and Arlene May, and

Franklin Presbyterian Church - Leafy Rexrode, Ella Mullenax Freda Roberson, Myrtle and Virgil Rexrode, Charles Thompson, Betty Hevener Nancy Salts, Abby Pitsenbarger Dr. Byrd Teter, Vera Tete Maggie Conner, Marcus Site Dwight Arbaugh, Magg Simmons and Delan Lambert

Multiflora Rose Program Sign Up Continues in WV

The West Virginia Conservation Districts' Multiflora Rose Control Program will continue taking applications beyond the original May 31 deadline.

"When we went to Congress to seek funding for this program, our motivation was to help West Virginia farmers and their families to be better able to survive financially," Gary Oates, West Virginia Association of Conservation Districts president said.

pasture land.

Cost share assistance will be provided to qualifying farmers who hire a commercial herbicide applicator to treat infestations of this noxious weed. Then, the participating farmers will maintain the treated area as grassland for a minimum of five years.

These management practices will enhance farm productivity and forage quality. When grasses are displaced by multiflora roses, the result is fewer cattle can

PENDLETON TIMES

Thursday
July 6, 2000

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, 26807

Highlands Remains on the Market

"Notwithstanding any rumors to the contrary, there is not now nor has there ever been an offer to buy the golf course."

Rob Locklin, the developer of the new golf course and housing development in Deer Run, made that declaration on Friday, the day after an effort was made to sell or at least secure bids on the Highlands Golf and Sports Club and the course's adjoining real estate.

Originally scheduled to take place on June 3 but moved up to June 29, an auction that was to have been orchestrated by Albert-Burney, Inc., a national firm specializing in the marketing and sale of high-end real estate.

As of Tuesday, the golf course, clubhouse and available residential parcels had not been sold as a result of Thursday's activity. The parties involved agreed to

suspend a formal auction on Thursday. Instead, Locklin negotiated with a potential buyer who were in attendance.

An offer to purchase the golf course has yet to be tendered pursuant to those discussions.

Locklin reported that possible interest in purchasing the Highlands has been expressed by several parties who fall into the category of potentially serious buyers.

On Tuesday, two days before the auction, Locklin spoke with the Pendleton County Economic and Community Development Authority (EDA).

The EDA met in regular session at the new South Fork fire house in Brandywine.

At a special meeting of the EDA on June 2, Locklin had asked for a decision on whether or not that local agency would be

willing to re-finance its \$3 million share of state development office financing with a new buyer.

The development office in Charleston had granted \$3 million to the EDA to be loaned to Locklin for the purchase and development of the golf course property.

The EDA agreed to accept the funding and to loan the money to Locklin for the development of the golf course property and its upscale real estate component.

An additional \$1 million was loaned by the state Economic Development Office.

A private entity, the Pendleton Community Bank, also made a substantial loan to fund the construction of the course.

Locklin wanted the EDA to be willing to loan its part of the debt to a new owner under favorable terms involving interest and re-

payment schedule.

At the June 2 meeting, the EDA discussed the request with the developer and agreed to give him an answer at the organization's next regular meeting, on June 27.

On June 27, Locklin asked the EDA for a decision and briefly discussed his request, saying that a favorable vote would be very helpful in securing a buyer.

County commissioner Bob Armentrout said he felt that any potential buyer would probably have such "deep pockets" that \$3 million in favorable financing would not be any incentive to them.

Locklin's response was that no investor, no matter how wealthy or how deep his or her pockets might be, would fail to find a \$3 million loan under generous terms a very attractive business

incentive.

Following an explanation, the EDA voted not to grant although the motion held the door to negotiations with a new the \$3 million made.

A condition of sale discussions, be that the EDA business proposal owner.

EDA member comfortable in request prior to out knowing a price identity or the price.

Locklin said course employ more than 20 individuals mately half of time employees

Wilkins Elected School Board President

Todd To Ministry

Political Fallout Predicted from Wind Power Issue

Editor, the Times:

I have to give credit to our county commissioners for their extraordinary determination and diligence in doing whatever it takes to help Tom Matthews and Jim Cookman build their eyesores on Jack Mountain. When the commissioners' first plan to help the wind guys by using their power of eminent domain caused such an uproar, they backed off to regroup, to replace one turbine enthusiast with another, and then to sign up a year and a half later for the "Economic Benefits for Pendleton County" public relations campaign conducted by Liberty Gap (LG). This included the well-orchestrated "Public Forum," hosted by the commissioners on Feb. 1 that was a one-sided infomercial soon followed by a no-questions-allowed regular meeting of the commission on Feb. 20 to unanimously endorse the LG project and send that endorsement on to the PSC. The culmination of the campaign was the May 2 signing of the Tax Guarantee Agreement between LG and the commissioners. Any one interested in reading this agreement and the cover letter endorsement the commissioners sent along with it to the PSC can find them at protectpendleton.com/legalist_may.htm (the fourth document from the top dated 05/

if the commissioners would be tempted to think of this as "their" money to spend on creature comforts for the courthouse.

Bob Tuckerman in his May 25 Letter to the Editor suggested they could use the tax-guarantee money to reduce the tax load on county taxpayers. I called Bob and learned he was relying on the "tax guarantee" words in the title of the agreement as indicating the payment was all to be treated as taxes. I disagree and think the fine print in the agreement says otherwise. The commissioners' cover letter specifically mentions payments to the county in addition to taxes. The most likely outcome I suspect would be to keep taxes where they are and spend the extra income on pet projects.

I also have some other doubts about this deal. Jerry Moore might be a really smart lawyer but what will happen when the project developers, Cookman and Matthews, turn LG over to the corporate buyer they have already lined up? Will this owner of LG set its Wall Street lawyers to work finding loopholes to void the deal or else haul the commissioners into a lengthy court fight that county taxpayers would have to pay for. Easier yet, might this owner of LG get friendly legislators to pass laws that would in effect nullify the agreement?

For the sake of argument, let's say the deal holds up and the

of almost \$611 million in property value, which would generate at current rates \$1,522,134 in taxes. This is three times what Class 2 real estate is projected to pay for fiscal year 2006 - 2207. How can the commissioners be so shortsighted as to put all that at risk? We can't do anything

Arthur Hooton
Riverton, WY

Federal Largesse for Local Projects Opposed by Reader

Editor, the Times:

I read in a recent "Weekender" that Shelley Capito was "extremely pleased to have secured \$200,000..." for streetscape improvements in Franklin, and that Mayor Long is "deeply grateful." I know Bobby Byrd has half the state renamed after him for similar thefts on a grander scale, so I guess Shelley has decided to follow suit. I don't get it.

The federal government has no legitimate business paying for our local projects. And in reality, the federal government doesn't pay for them—the citizens of Wyoming and Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Idaho do. Capito and Byrd aren't spending their own money—no generosity on their part—they are playing Robin Hood with tax rip-offs. Anyone who thinks this is a good

idea has no right to complain about congressional corruption, or about high taxes. Why can't Franklin citizens decide what they want, figure its cost, and then raise the money to do it ourselves? If we don't want it enough to pay for it, we shouldn't get it. And the same applies to Pendleton County, West Virginia, the United States, and our personal lives. Under Bobby's and Shelley's approach—and our collaboration—when a visitor comments about our nice sidewalks or street lights we'll be honored to say "yes, they were a gift from Texans or Floridians." Mountaineers are always free—to be independent or dependent. One generates pride, the other guilt and pity. Happy Independence Day.

GD Batcheller

legitimate business paying for our local projects. And in reality, the federal government doesn't pay for them—the citizens of Wyoming and Massachusetts and Rhode Island and Idaho do. Capito and Byrd aren't spending their own money—no generosity on their part—they are playing Robin Hood with tax rip-offs.

GD Batcheller

Anyone who thinks this is a good

corporate buyer they have already hood up? Will this owner of LG set its Wall Street lawyers to work finding loopholes to void the deal or else haul the commissioners into a lengthy court fight that county taxpayers would have to pay for. Easier yet, might this owner of LG get friendly legislators to pass laws that would in effect nullify the agreement?

For the sake of argument, let's say the deal holds up and the promised money materializes. What have we gained if we put the entire county at risk for becoming a poster child for the industrialization of the finest of mountain landscapes in WV? If LG is approved, there is no doubt that the rest of the county's ridges will come under assault and the economically valuable tourist, outdoor recreation, vacation home and real estate businesses that depend on preserving our natural beauty will be negatively impacted by this subtle version of mountaintop removal as rows upon rows of wind turbines take all the beauty from our ridges.

I am convinced the county commissioners have made a bad deal for the county, gaining a questionable cash promise from LG in exchange for all the appreciated property value that the county could experience as the state's most highly desirable destination for future retirees, vacation-home buyers, tourists and outdoor enthusiasts. Our mountain scenery is second to none and the commissioners are opening the door to its inevitable devaluation one ridge at a time.

How much is LG's agreement worth? They have promised to pay to the commissioners over the next 20 years \$4 million of tax guarantee payments and \$2,225,000 in community partnerships grants. This averages out to \$311,250 per yr, which

The commissioners state in their cover letter a predictable mantra of economic benefits to the county along with the hilariously illogical conclusion that the transmission upgrade Allegheny Power will need to install solely for accommodating the potential service disruptions that can occur when an inherently unstable, variable, wind-powered electrical generating facility is tied into the grid is really going to be a great benefit to the county.

The Tax Guarantee Agreement certainly has the appearance of providing an enticing wind power windfall (pun intended) to the county of \$200,000 per yr. for 20 yrs. The commissioners were clearly enticed by it. Under Article III, Section 2, the county sheriff can collect and distribute only the amount of property tax that can be legally assessed against LG, which means being assessed at scrap value by state law that would yield around \$40,000 of legal property taxes. Then the commissioners get to disburse the \$160,000 that's left however they want. The Community Partnership Grant looks pretty enticing, too. After its first full year of commercial generation, LG gives the commissioners \$110,000 to spend as they choose. I wonder

More
Friday
5 p.m.
m. to 2 p.m.
South Grove St.
www.xbox.com
1-257-6628



OPENING
Saturday
September 2

CLASSIC

PROPERTIES, LLC
336 S. Main St., Moorefield, WV 26836
(304) 530-7075

Barb Swick, ABR, CSI, Broker
(304) 494-2630 (Res.)
e-mail: barbsw@harbyreal.com
barbsw@yaho.com

Tracy Bush
(304) 395-7518
tracybush@yahoo.com

CLASSIC PROPERTIES, LLC web page: <http://www.classicwv.com>

PT5416230—Sweedlin Valley 177± acres wooded. Joins National Forest. Easy access. Views.

PT5343104 MOYERS GAP Hunters Paradise! 437 acres. Partly wooded/open. Rock Outcroppings. Views. Roads thru-out.

HD5297256—Between Petersburg and Moorefield. 9 acre unrestricted w/view. Spring fed ponds.

PT5069723—SWEEDLIN VALLEY 110.89± wooded acres w/stocked 10± ac. Lake. Views. Borders National Forest. A hunting/fishing paradise!

GT5481774—MAYSVILLE 63.76 ac. Excellent development property. Views! Public water. Unrestricted. \$350,000.

PR5182337—32.6 acres in Preston County. Partly wooded. Partly open with utilities. Situated in Arthurdale, A National Historic District.

Canaan Valley—Red Spruce Trails— 2+ acre lots with National Forest. Stream, X-Country Ski-trail. Starting @ \$132,900.

MOOREFIELD CROSSINGS— Multi-Unit residential building lots. 4-11 unit lots. Qualified builders and/or investors only. Call Barb.

GRANT COUNTY— Fixer-Upper on 33.8 ac. Wooded/Open. Nice Views. Public water available. \$159,900.

DURGON— Beautiful new home on 1.1 ac. 3BR/2BA. 2-Car Garage. View. Public water. \$239K.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY 4 to 8 acre wooded lots adjoining National Forest near Lake Moomau and Minnehaha Springs. Beautiful building sites, easy access by forest road. Some with small streamsq. Call Tracy.

**PENDLETON COUNTY
COMMITTEE
FOR THE ARTS
SUMMER ARTS PROGRAM 2006**

August Classes

Adults (13 and up)

• 8/31 6:00-7:30pm
Appalachian Fiction Book Club

• 8/12 & 19 10:30am-12:00

annual generation, LG gives the contractors \$110,000 to spend as they choose. I wonder

the next 20 years \$4 million of tax guarantee payments and \$2,225,000 in community partnerships grants. This averages out to \$311,250 per yr., which amounts to 11.6% of the county's budget for the fiscal year 2006-07. Take out the scrap value property taxes LG is legally obligated to pay, and it drops to 10.1%. That's still a significant number, but in 20 years, using a 3.4% inflation rate, the general fund revenues will have nearly doubled and LG's contribution will have fallen to 5.2% of tax revenues.

Now imagine the county's revenue stream over the next 20 years without the blight of industrial wind turbines and their negative effect on tourism, outdoor recreation, home construction and real estate values. A visit to the assessor's office reveals that in the past four years for which property values are available (1 July 2001 - 1 July 2005) the dollar value of new construction increased by 9.7% per year. Some of the construction was to maintain existing housing stocks but much was for upgrades and additions, and much more was for new homes being built.

At the current rate of construction, Pendleton County could see \$213 million of property value added to the tax base. Add to that the value of the current Class 2 real estate appreciating at 3.4% for 20 years and one gets a total

Adults (13 and up)

• 8/31 6:00-7:30pm

Appalachian Fiction Book Club

• 8/12 & 19 10:30am-12:00

An Organized U.

All Ages

• 8/12 & 19 10:30am-12:00

The Joys of Journaling

• 8/26 10:00am-12:00

Creative Card Making

Registration Deadlines

June Classes—June 14th

July Classes—June 30th

August Classes—July 31st



Please Contact:

Liz Warner

er82@hotmail.com

(304) 249-5716

\$10.00 per class



Registration Form Summer Arts Program 2006

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Class/es _____

KEN

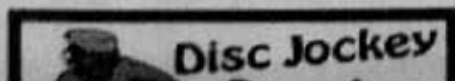


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PENDLETON TIMES

Franklin, Pendleton County, West Virginia, 26807

Thursday
July 27, 1995

Liberty Gap Application Dismissed

power development in West Virginia and elicited the public opposition of The Greenbrier resort.

US WindForce has received siting certificate approval for a 166-turbine facility at Mount Storm in neighboring Grant County.

FirstEnergy, an energy company based in Ohio, has entered into agreements with US WindForce to purchase the combined 250 megawatts of power from the Pendleton (100 megawatts) and Grant (150 megawatts) County facilities.

On Tuesday morning, Frank Maisano, spokesman for a coalition of wind resource developers

in West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia, said the PSC's decision negatively impacts the timeline for the proposed Jack Mountain project, and he described that

"We are disenchanted with the PSC's dismissal of the application..."

- Jim Cookman, VP project development, US WindForce

timeline as vital in several ways, including that of arranging for project financing.

He regretted the potential for lost tax revenue in Pendleton County and for lost revenue from construction jobs and permanent on-site jobs should the Jack Mountain project not be developed.

A press release states, "The action of the [PSC] in dismissing Liberty Gap's application is far in excess of the relief requested by Friends [of Beautiful Pendle-

ton County], and is simply not supported by fact or law."

Maisano said Liberty Gap will file a motion requesting the PSC to reconsider its dismissal of the company's request for a siting certificate.

Jim Cookman, vice-president of project development for US WindForce, stated that Liberty

Gap is disenchanted with the PSC's dismissal of the application and will work proactively and aggressively to persuade the PSC to reconsider its decision.

Unless the PSC reverses the dismissal order it entered on Monday, Liberty Gap would have to re-file its request for a siting certificate for the proposed Jack Mountain wind generation facility.

The wording used by the PSC in the order it entered on Monday is as follows: "Liberty Gap may re-file its application, and will be expected to reasonably cooperate with the parties to its re-filed case on property access and other discovery matters."

The PSC's decision is a dispute between Friends of Pendleton County (FOPC) and Friends of B... ing an FOBPC h... analyst to hav... Jack Mountain

On June 16, PSC for an or... access for the... erty Gap expr... about allowin... property, and... and counter-

Liberty... FOBPC a "d... which Mai... draft stand... sideration

(Continued)

New Commander Takes Charges at

British Naval regulations in place at the time this nation was founded.

Certainly, that insistence on

Admiral, United States Navy, departing."

(A local man, Father Mario Claro of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Sugar Gr... Brown

major ac... war on t

Class of '56 Holds 50th Reunion



On July 9, classmates of the Franklin High School graduating class of 1956 gathered together at the Moose to celebrate their fiftieth class reunion.

Of the 72 who graduated from FHS, 36 were in attendance to commemorate the half-century mark. One of the classes teachers, Elaine Craig, was also in attendance.

Reminiscing on this momentous occasion were, from left, first row, Ruth (Riggelman) Kline, Patsy (Smith) Puffenbarger, Patricia (Borrer) Hedrick, Vada (Ratliff) Mallow, Naomi (Simmons) Brandli, Evelyn (Swadley) Johnson, Elenora (Bean) Lancioni, Elsie Mae (Harper) Lambert and Leta (Propst) Kimble, second row, Elmer Sowers, Jean (Harper) Mason, Geneva (Nesselrodt) Lambert, Betty (Kesner) Judy, Richard Lough, Geneva (Hoover) Walters, Eston Simmons, Billy Timbrook, Garry Simmons and Phillip Cunningham, third row, Gene Alt, Charles Dean, Reed Kimble, David Dyer, Pollvanna (Dahmer) Johnson, Richard "Bo" Boggs, Sue Ann (Th-

Congratulations!

Grandma (Shelia

for passing

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Class of '56 Holds 50th Reunion



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Congratulations!

Liberty Gap Asks for Reconsideration

Liberty Gap Wind Force has formally asked the West Virginia Public Service (PSC) for a second chance.

Liberty Gap's petition asking the PSC to reconsider its July 24 dismissal of the company's application for a permit allowing the construction of up to 50 wind turbines on Jack Mountain was filed with the PSC on Monday.

A significant part of the document states that "Liberty Gap is willing to toll the statutory deadline for an additional 60 days, extending the decision deadline from Nov. 17, 2006, to Jan. 16, 2007."

"That will provide," the document filed with the PSC states, "ample time for FOBPC's (Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County) consultants to return to Pendleton County, conduct the inspection and prepare supplemental rebuttal testimony and/or reports and allow Liberty Gap to respond in a supplemental testimony, if necessary."

The petition additionally states that Liberty Gap is "will-

ing to pay the travel costs of the FOBPC's consultants to return to Pendleton County to complete their inspection [of the proposed Jack Mountain site] in the event [the PSC] reconsiders its order and reinstates the application."

The petition addresses other concerns stated by the PSC in its abrupt dismissal of Liberty Gap's permit application, specifically stated PSC concerns that FOBPC's inability to have access to the site in a timely manner for its hydrology/geology consultant "eliminated the possibility of full litigation of the issues in this case."

The dispute leading to the PSC's outright dismissal of the permit application, which was more than FOBPC had asked for from the PSC, had its provenance in recent legal haggling over a draft liability waiver an FOBPC consultant was asked to sign before being allowed access to the site to conduct hydrological and geological studies.

The PSC used strong language in throwing out the permit ap-

plication and indicated reasons to suspect that Liberty Gap had tried to block reasonable access to the site by FOBPC.

In regard to PSC's concerns

about being able to engage in litigation of issues in the permit application case, the petition reconsideration states, "Lib

(Continued on Page 5, Column

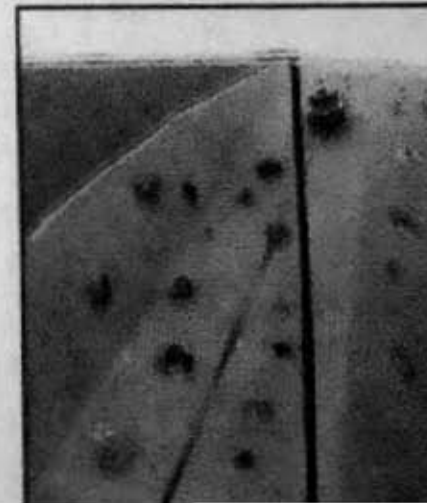
Seneca Rocks Tourism

Although Pendleton County's overall economy may not benefit substantially from the travel/tourism industry—a state Tourism Commission study last year estimated that total travel spending here in 2004 amounted to \$6.2 million, one of the lowest figures in the state—the summer of 2006 appears to be a good again for tourism in Seneca Rocks, which is one of the Mid Atlantic region's most popular travel destinations in the spring and summer and again when the leaves turn in the fall.

Official numbers for the Seneca Rocks Discovery Center through July 18 show 32,586 visitors there this year, an increase of 2,688 from the same time period last year.

The total number of Discovery Center visitors in 2005 was 74,286, a decline of more than 13,500 over the number of visitors in 2004.

In 2003, 75,055 visitors stopped in at the Discovery Center. The high water mark for visitation there in recent years was in 2000, when 106,701 people enjoyed attractively designed



For Electricity Demand

Editor, the Times:

Where is the wind when you need it most?

It is August 1, 2006. A hot, humid, muggy air mass has blanketed the eastern seaboard. In cities along the east coast, afternoon temperatures soar in excess of 100 degrees with heat indexes reaching 110 and higher. Electricity power grids across the region strain to meet the huge demand and some companies report numerous power outages as a direct result of this demand. One modest company, BGE, that supplies electricity to Baltimore and the surrounding area, reports record consumption of 7,099 megawatts of energy between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., beating the old record set just last July. It is days like this when electricity is needed the most.

At the same time, at the 4,842 ft. summit on Bald Knob, AccuWeather's online weather station reports winds gusting to just 5 mph - too little to turn the massive rotors of today's windmill generators and too little to result in any electricity generation at all. Any windmills close by, would be standing idle when the demand for electricity to the

can it be relied upon to produce electrical energy during times of peak demands. Yet the proponents of wind energy associated with the Liberty Gap proposal, seemingly eager to reap lucrative tax incentives and large profits for themselves, stated that their proposal is for the "greater good" to "provide more power for the rest of the United States".

Despite two unsuccessful applications before the West Virginia Public Service Commission for the construction and operation of a windfarm on Jack Mountain, we should all expect that there will be more. We all want the best for our local community, the state and the nation, but do we really want to make the sacrifices required and suffer the negative impacts when wind energy cannot even supply any power at all when it is needed the most?

Charlie Banda

HARTMAN'S Service Station

Lee Avenue, Franklin, WV

Phone: 358-2574, 358-2806

NOW OFFERING

Oil Changes & Grease Jobs

port of Liberty Gap's petition for reconsideration of its application, is no surprise. The commissioners have been assiduously doing their part to assist Liberty Gap's assault on Jack Mountain from the moment they first swallowed the bait of untold riches destined for the county's coffers.

Theirs was not the only letter of support for Liberty Gap. There were six others: five from various WV Affiliated Construction Trades representatives and one from Bob Armentrout, presumably not in his capacity as a commissioner.

Readers of The Pendleton Times might think that was the end of the story. I think it's worth mentioning that there were also 366 other letters sent to the PSC that opposed Liberty Gap's petition. They offered many cogent reasons for the PSC to deny Liberty Gap's request. One letter, the formal response of Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County, written by its attorney, Justin St. Clair, countered every one of Liberty Gap's arguments, often using Liberty Gap's own contradictory prior statements and testimony to strip all credibility from their petition.

This letter and all the others can be read at www.protectpendleton.com. I particularly recommend reading Bob Armentrout's letter in which he says he found "browsing the

from people who enjoy sitting on their deck and listening to the gentle whoosh of the turbine blades — more so, apparently, with a glass of wine in hand.

Bob's mentor in turbine thoughts, Charlie Winfree, is in the real estate business, heavily invested in New Creek Preserve in Grant Co. and Ashton Woods in Hardy Co. The thought in the minds of potential customers, that WV is poised to become the wind turbine capital of the Alleghenies, may have a noticeable dampening effect on sales of scenic mountain properties. The premium that people from DC are willing to pay for mountain views could suddenly evaporate. Charlie may be a true believer in industrial wind turbines, but he could also just be desperately trying to convince potential buyers that it's not so bad to sit on your deck at sunset and watch the rotors turn, or not, as is often the case in August.

I used to think that Hardy Co., where Ashton Woods is located, would be immune from industrial wind turbine development because its ridges are too low. It's no longer immune. There are 3.5MW turbines in production and 5MW turbines in the design stage. Instead of 426 ft. from ground to rotor top, we could soon be looking at 600 ft. high turbines. They could perch on the low ridges of Hardy County

In deciding whether to refuse to issue or issue in part a siting certificate, the commission shall appraise and balance the interests of the public, the general interests of the state and local economy and the interests of the applicant." In his letter to the WV PSC supporting the reinstatement of Liberty Gap's application Commissioner Armentrout stated that, "an independent business or organization working with private land owners operating within the perimeters of the law should be the only consideration when allowing or disallowing a site application permit." If it were left up to Mr. Armentrout, a toxic waste dump could be placed next to my property.

As for Mr. Armentrout's opin-

PSC OKs 124-Turbine Wind Farm in Greenbrier County

An industrial wind power facility in Greenbrier County that will be three times the size of the state's only existing wind farm in Tucker County received the green light from the state Public Service Commission (PSC) on Monday.

The 92-page decision includes 29 conditions the developer, Beech Ridge, a Chicago, IL, wind energy developer, must meet.

Some of those conditions include a three-year study of bird and bat mortality, the use of noise buffers on equipment and trucks, and limitations on lighting at the site.

In Eric Eyre's front-page story in "The Charleston Gazette (Aug. 29)," a spokesman for Beech Ridge is quoted as saying, "It looks like they are all reasonable conditions."

The Beech Ridge Energy Wind Farm, which is located in the relatively remote Cold Knob section of Greenbrier County, will be a 124-turbine electrical generation facility.

Opponents of the project allege that the facility will hurt tourism by spoiling mountain ridge line viewsheds, that it will lower property values and that noise and light from the turbines will be excessively unpleasant. Critics also point to excessive mortality rates for birds and bats and to wildlife habitat disruption.

The Cold Knob area is reportedly a popular site for bear hunters.

The Beech Ridge Energy Wind Farm is unrelated to the proposal by Liberty Gap Wind Force and its corporate parent, US WindForce, for a 44-turbine facility on Jack Mountain in this county.

The status of the Liberty Gap project remains in limbo following the PSC's decision on July 24 to toss the company's application for a siting certificate.

On July 31, Liberty Gap Wind Force filed a petition asking the PSC to reconsider its decision to dismiss the request for a siting

certificate. The PSC held the door open for Liberty Gap to start the permit process over again—the filing fee is \$62,500—from the beginning and has not ruled on the petition for reconsideration.

Be Ready for the Flu

A new strain of the flu will someday cause widespread illness and disruption of services. People will need to be prepared to take care of themselves and their families for at least a few weeks, possibly longer. That was the main messages at a public meeting at the Pendleton Community Building in Franklin last Thursday. Over 70 people attended the meeting, which included speakers, displays and educational materials.

Kim Kline, Regional Epidemiologist, Pendleton County Health Department, spoke about the nature of influenza viruses.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 4)

County High School Wildcat cheerleaders Ashley Kisamore, Hannah Wilkins, so Ariana Berg, freshman Roberson and freshman Wright—about their trip to Orlando to performing the half-time show Capital One Bowl game will be played on New and broadcast national ABC-TV network.

But the number of points used to their quotes don't do the excitement those



PCHS CHEERLEADERS Ashley Kisamore and Em

FHS Class of '61 Gathers for 45th Reunion

Members of the Franklin High School Class of 1961 celebrated their 45th class reunion on July 1 at the South Fork Fire Hall in Brandywine. The dining hall was beautifully decorated in the class colors of red and white. The evening began with a social hour with hors d'oeuvres provided by Nancy Gonshor, followed by a delicious dinner served by the South Fork Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary, after which 14 door prizes were awarded. Many fond memories were shared by the 75 attendees, which included 49 class members. Rev. Leon Hevener and Jean Ann Homan conducted a memorial service for the seven deceased members—Lynn Paul Lambert (1962); Leon Stanley Dunkle (1977); Roy Wesley Puffenbarger (1977); Wilma Lee (Pennington) Geil (1985); Charlottie (Wright) Redman (1999); David Arlen Lantz (2002); and Patsy (Harman) Casto (2006).

Sharon (Hedrick) McClelland attended grades 1-7 at Franklin Elementary School with most of the class members until she moved to Ohio. This was the first time most of those in attendance

had seen her in 50 years! The only teacher in attendance was

Mrs. Iris Nelson.

The class agreed to hold their

next reunion in five years—their 50th!



GRADUATES ATTENDING FROM from states as far away as California, Texas and Minnesota were: first row, from left, Leon Hevener, Lannie Mullenax, "Jake" Conrad, Jesse C. Propst, Floyd Propst, Nathan Propst, Bob Cline and Bob Armentrout; second row (sitting), from left, Charles Kline, Roger Dyer, Patty (Kimble) Snyder, Barbara (Kimble) Kimble, Lola (Judy) Hedrick, Evelyn (Smith) Varner, Betty (Lough) Smith, Patricia (Hoover) Curran, Juanita (Harper) Richards, Frances (Harold) Lawrence, Evelyn (Ratliff) Hevener, Madeline (Lambert) Hoover, Paul Simmons, Deanna (Halterman) Belter, Linda Sue Propst, Geneva (Mongold) Simmons, Hilda Bergdoll, Phyllis (Harper) Eye, Mary Rose (Gordon) Hinkle and Nancy (Kimble) Gonshor; third row, from left, Bernard Wilfong, Nancy (Mowery) Sites, Lannie Simmons, Betty (Lambert) Mongold, Shirley (Eckard) Lohr, Treva (Mongold) Moats, Gerald Ruddle, Donald Smith, Sherman Walker, Ramona (Warner) Luckel, Charles Reed Moyers, Robert Lambert, Doris (Propst) Short, Elwood Smith, Joe Dahmer, Judy (Nesselrodt) Dudley, Mahlon Simmons, Jean Ann (Simmons) Homan, Sharon (Hedrick) McClelland and Sue (Teter) Kline. Not pictured: Carroll Thompson and Mrs. Iris Nelson.

Thoughts from

stove, the same Coca Cola cooler, never change until the store

PSC To Decide Wind Farm's Fate March 16

The Liberty Gap Wind Force application for a permit to operate up to 80 wind turbines on Jack Mountain and to construct a transmission support line appears to be back in play before the West Virginia Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates utilities in the state.

In a nine-page ruling handed down on Friday, the PSC granted Liberty Gap's petition for reconsideration of the agency's July 24 dismissal of the wind power developer's application for a Jack Mountain siting certificate.

If Liberty Gap consents to the terms of the PSC's Sept. 1 order, a determination on the fate of the proposal for an industrial wind farm apparently will be known on March 16.

A prepared statement from Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County says the local organization was "not surprised at the decision of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia to reinstate the application of Liberty Gap Wind Force, LLC, proposed to construct an industrial wind energy facility in Pendleton County. Friends will continue its efforts to support and protect the residents and landowners opposing this proposed facility."

On July 21, Liberty Gap asked the PSC for a second chance. Otherwise, the company would have been forced to begin the certification process over again from the beginning, including the payment once more of a \$62,500 filing fee.

The PSC's decision to grant Liberty Gap's petition for reconsideration came four days after giving the green light—with conditions—to a 124-turbine project in Giles County by Beech Ridge, a company based in Chicago, Ill.

The PSC's July 24 dismissal of the application stated that Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County, which opposes the local development of industrial wind power, had been denied access to the proposed project area near the border of Pendleton County and Highland County, Va.

That denial of access "clearly constituted the possibility of full

litigation of the issues in this case," to quote from the PSC's Sept. 1 ruling.

In Liberty Gap's petition for reconsideration, the company agreed to extend the statutory deadline for a PSC decision on whether or not to permit the project by 60 days, to Jan. 17.

Liberty Gap additionally agreed to pay the travel costs of consultants engaged by the Friends organization "to return to Pendleton County to complete their inspection" of the proposed Jack Mountain site.

The July 24 decision to toss the Liberty Gap application revolved around what the PSC described as "unreasonable behavior" by wind power developer in allow-

been required to sign a liability waiver prior to a site visit.

However, in the July 31 Liberty Gap petition for reconsideration, it was noted that a PSC rule governing siting certificate application justifies an applicant treating PSC staff differently than other parties. Liberty Gap said that the PSC misunderstood the basis for the precautions it was taking before allowing the Friends consultant access to the Jack Mountain site.

An affidavit attached to the Liberty Gap petition and signed

by G. Thomas Matthews, the chief operating officer for Liberty Gap's parent company stated that dismissal of the company application would have a devastating financial effect on Liberty Gap and its parent.

The Friends organization filed a point-by-point response to the Liberty Gap petition. The Friends filing alleged a pattern of misconduct and "arrogant actions and behavior" by the developer in regards to the proposed Jack Mountain project.

The PSC's Sept. 1 decision requires that Liberty Gap consent to a 120-day rather than 60-day

(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)

"Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County were not surprised at the decision of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia to reinstate the application of Liberty Gap Wind Force..."

-Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County

ing timely and reasonable access to the site by the Friends consultants.

That ruling noted that PSC staff members, unlike the Friends consultants, had not

Quilt Wins National Award



A quilt by Janet Underwood, a resident of Franklin, received Best Hand Workmanship in this year's Hoffman Challenge, a prestigious national quilt competition which has been mounted annually since 1987-88 by Hoffman Fabrics.

Underwood's quilt is entitled "Grammy's Roses." It was singled out for Best Hand Workmanship in the pieced quilt category.

A fabric Underwood described as "pretty wild" is selected for use each year as a basis for the competition. "That," she explained, "is where the challenge comes from."

Underwood's work is an original design which was pre-planned by drawings on graph paper, a characteristic of many of Underwood's works. Asked about "signature" design elements in her work, she replied, "The use of straight lines to make curves," a technique that is strikingly and abundantly evident in "Grammy's Roses."

Part of the inspiration came from an old-fashioned rose bush in Underwood's backyard and which is an off-shoot of the bush her grandmother had in her garden.

Hundreds of quilts and other hand-made items are submitted

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

County Resident Earns Best New Song Award in Nat'l Competition

Pendleton County music with Internet access should be available on this now: Go to news.festival.com and find a new festival.com and find a new festival.com and find a new festival.com

There, one will find that Mountain Stage, the nationally known, West Virginia-based organization which mounts temporary music concerts coast-to-coast on public lists the results of its 2006 new song contest.

The contest is juried, and of the three co-winners this is "Where Are You Moses"

That powerful, wrenching about the devastation of Orleans, LA, by Hurricane Katrina was co-written by Rush, who lives in the area, and Dave McCormick is based in Saint Albans open for the young New-based sensation, Ashley at this year's Treasure Festival on the evening of 16.

At Mountain Stage's website, McCormick's of "Where Are You Moses" be heard.

It was Rush who introduced the song's music title and early lyrics on guitar.

After developing writer's block, she went with McCormick in a

Tom Valleys Returns to the Playhouse

A special event featuring the stage adaptation of "Tom Valleys" at the Playhouse over the festival.

Why Were No Confederates on the Courthouse Lawn?

Editor, the Times:

I would like to address some complaints I received at the Treasure Mountain Festival this past weekend. These were NOT complaints for the TMF Association, for the problem was not their making. I am a Civil War re-enactor, and enjoy telling the true history of this event in the history of our county and country. In the past, the Confederate tents were always on the courthouse lawn. This year, we were told two weeks before the festival that they would not be allowed there by the county commission, because someone might be offended. There were people offended all right; people that felt the camp should have been there. There were less re-enactors here because of it.

It is historically correct to place the Confederate encampment on the courthouse lawn and the Union encampment on the McCoy house lawn. General Fremont and his Union troops occupied the McCoy house during the war when the Union troops were in the town. He used it for his telegraph headquarters. It is historically correct that this county was pro-confederate. It is even 'politically correct' in that time period. It is our history. You can't change the past, although too many people are trying to now a day

tory if someone in the County Commission won't let us portray it correctly? The flag that the commissioner was concerned about is not flown in our encampment. Yes, we do fly confederate flags, but not the Navy Jack that so many people are confused about and think is the only confederate flag. The Navy Jack has been misused in the past by different segments of society. That is one reason re-enactors don't use this in the encampments, it is not correct to use it on land, it was a naval flag flown on ships!

I would like to take a poll. How many people are for the encampment to return to the courthouse, and how many think it should not be there? Respond by email to me at orderbonnieblue@msn.com. If you don't use the Internet, my address is below. I truly want to know how the public feels.

Re-enactors are interested in portraying our history, not offending anyone. We have rights, too. At least we used to by the Constitution of the United States, or have they changed that also.

By being afraid to offend one person with our history, the government is offending many others, and doesn't care that they do. You do count. We are the voters. Part of the problem is that people will agree with what this letter says, but will be afraid to express

be known, whether it is in agreement with this letter or not. You are entitled to your opinion and I want to know what it is.

This county wants to increase and promote its history and tourist trade. How can we when you

won't allow us to give a true accounting of that history?

Koren Fae Rawlings,
Civil War Re-enactor
P.O. Box 622
Franklin, WV 26807-0622

Main Street Furniture  257-2099

2 miles South of Petersburg on Rt. 220

Behind Best Auto Sales

Apple Orders 

All Varieties

[A few deer apples]

To The Concerned Citizens of Cherry Grove/Big Run:

We would like to bring to your attention that we gave away our hunting dogs due to several disturbance complaints received by the Pendleton Co. Sheriff's Department. We think our Sheriff has better things to do than run after dog complaints when there

has been dogs in Cherry Grove/Big Run for several years.

Not only did we have dogs, but there are other people in this community that have hunting dogs, so we are sure that our dogs were not the only ones you were hearing. We did not and still do not see anything wrong with having dogs, when there is not a noise ordinance law in Cherry Grove/Big Run. Our dog taxes were paid and the dogs were taken care of, which were all very costly things, to keep our children off the streets.

Our children like to bear and coon hunt, that is what the hound dogs were used for but now they will not and do not have anything to occupy their spare time.

Hunting is a tradition that has been a large part of West

Tales of the Peddler Trade Part of Local Lore

Sugar Grove

In the 19th and 20th centuries, peddlers would canvas the countryside with large packs on their backs. These packs, when opened on a kitchen table, would display a wide variety of small items: plain and fancy combs, material, harmonicas, pocket knives, handkerchiefs, ribbons, sewing notions, buttons,

paper and pencils, glasses, candy, table clothes, lots of material, to name a few of the treasures. The Sugar Grove community knew a peddler, or huckster, by the name of George Eunise, who hailed from Uniontown, PA. His annual visits were looked forward to with great anticipation. Often times, he would be welcomed to a meal or an evening of rest. (The writer well recalls his visits even as late as the 60s).

The problem with a peddler's way of life was that he carried his earnings with his desired merchandise. He traveled into remote areas where the advantage of having a store nearby was not available. For some of the rougher folk, all of that wealth walking through the door was too much to resist and the body of the unfortunate peddler would never be found. Strange happenings took place near Rawley Springs, VA. There used to be a two-story log house called the Old Hedrick Place. At the top of the stairs in that house, tradition of the old days tell one that a peddler was murdered. A patch of blood could never be scrubbed away. Another strange occurrence states that the bed covers could never be kept on the bed that had been occupied by the peddler. No one could sleep in that room, even when the doors were locked. Eventually, after all the furniture had been removed, the room was permanently locked. The bloodstains at the top of the stairs were visible until the house was demolished around the 1950s.

Whatever happened to George Eunise? No doubt he got weary of carrying the large packs and retired to an easier life in Uniontown, PA. With the onset of transportation, there was no longer a need for an annual visit from the peddler. So the door is closed to the peddler, who was once a part of one's culture.

Last week, Bob and Patty

were Virgil, Jr. and Jeanne Homan.

The Dolan Grogg family attended the Sunday 40th wedding anniversary of Pat and Jim Armstrong of McDowell, VA.

The community enjoyed the gentle showers this past week. Once the fog lifted Sunday afternoon, the sun left a beautiful blue sky, which is typical of October. The leaves are beginning to create panoramic picture postcard views. Volunteers have been busy picking up wayside wastes, a continual process of preserving the community's beauty.

Alberta James, formerly of Brandywine, celebrated her 95th birthday on Wednesday. Congratulations to Alberta!

Visiting Willadene Simmons over the weekend was her daughter, Rose Stahl of Harrisonburg, VA.

Concerns for the week are for Eula Reedy, Harvey Bowers, Maggie Conner, Mildred Kiser, Bill and Bonnie Wimer, Conway and Arlene May, Jarod Nelson,

Signs...

(Continued from Page 1, Column 6)

roadsides in violation of state law.

According to Darell Warner, the Pendleton County state road chief, West Virginia law prohibits placing signs of any type on state right-of-way property, and his crew brought them down promptly when the order came through from on high.

Craig Hinds, Ann Kiser, Wanda Wimer, Steve Cowger, Billy Puffenbarger, John Bowers, Joann Bodkin, Jane Eye, Bobbie Raines, Bill Ford, Pauline Simmons, Edna Harper, Byrd Teter and Diana (Jeff) Mitchell; and

Franklin Presbyterian Church — Jane Eye, Wanda Wimer, Alice Johnson, Joan Bodkin, Charles Thompson, Virgil and Myrtle Rexrode, Ella Mullenax, Eula Reedy, Mary Gary Dolly, Jessie Vandevander, Maggie Conner, Delan Lambert, Nancy Salts, Maggie Simmons, Abby Pitsenbarger, Patricia Swecker, Connie Clayton and Yvonne Smith.

THURSDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY SPECIALS



Fat Boys Pork Palace



Thursday - Pot Roast

Friday (beginning at 5 p.m.) - Shrimp, Crab Legs or Buffet

Saturday (beginning at 5 p.m.) - Prime Rib or Flounder Stuffed with Crab

Sunday - Old Fashion Kraut Dumplings

Monday - Spaghetti

Tuesday - Pan Fried Trout

Wednesday - Hot Roast Beef Sandwich

Brandywine

Phone: 249-7025



Revival Services

at

Christ Central Community Church

Upper Tract

October 22—24

7:00 pm

FREE C



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9 a

Franklin A

Route 33

Totten Chapel's

Saturday, Octob

Thorn Spring

Carry On

PORK BBQ on

Cole Slaw ~

Editor, the Times:

As the old saying goes, this letter is meant to "kill two birds with one stone."

The first item I hope to put to rest is the recent blame placed upon our county commissioners for not allowing a Confederate encampment on the court house lawn. In a letter to the editor, a dedicated Civil War re-enactor graciously released the Treasure Mountain Festival Association from all blame in the incident. I must confess this statement was made in error. As a representative of the association, the blame, if there needs to be any, should rest upon my shoulders. I was the one who was negligent in acquiring permission for the use of the court house lawn for the Civil War encampments. If I had approached the county commissioners earlier in the year with my request, they would have had time to investigate all their options and rule accordingly. This of course was not the case. It was brought to my attention two weeks prior to the festival that permission had not been obtained so I requested a time slot at the next commission meeting which was readily given. I voiced my request for the encampment along with other items. At an earlier date, our representatives had at-

tended a state-wide county commissioner association meeting in Huntington, WV, at which time an attorney that works for the state of WV brought two legal cases to their attention involving the display of Confederate flags or other possible "offensive" items in the work place and on state or county properties. My encampment request brought back to mind this very meeting and all angles were then discussed. Our commissioners were pretty much in agreement that our case was different in that it would be historical and not offensive to anyone although it could give someone an opportunity to file a complaint. I was the one who suggested we could place the Union encampment on the court house lawn in order to prevent a controversy. This was readily agreed upon as a sensible solution. Had there been time to investigate all their options, I'm sure the commissioners would not have had any objections to the original request. As it was, the decision they made was based on what information they had at the time and was meant to protect our local government from a possible burdensome and expensive legal confrontation. They were doing the best they could with what information they had and cannot be blamed in this incident.

I agree that many of us feel our rights are being infringed upon in the quest to obliterate all possible offensive items from public view and it is evident that things have gone beyond reasonable. It is not the job of our commissioners to take a stand against or for our personal beliefs but to protect our county in the best way they possibly can.

Now for the second "bird" to be addressed. This, in a way, relates to the first portion of this letter. I take all responsibility for the whole encampment incident and if there is an excuse, I would have to say it is due to having too much to do. The general consensus of this year's festival was, "the best one yet." The success of an event comes with a price to be paid. A lot of planning, hard work, and sacrifices were made so everyone could have a very enjoyable weekend. If not for the dedicated and continuous help of a handful of volunteers this year's festival could not and would not have been heralded a success. Many volunteers are on

hand during the festival week to make sure the dreams and plans come to completion, without whom it would have failed. Never the less, the job would be easier and less margin for error, as in the Civil War encampment incident, if more volunteers were in the planning stages of the event. We have numerous small duties that would not be burdensome and take up endless hours if they could be passed out to interested individuals. As of now, these are grouped together and added to the already over burdened committee.

If you enjoyed the Treasure Mountain Festival this year and have thought at one time or another, or maybe the thought just now occurs to you, that you would like to join an organization that is enthusiastic and excited about moving ahead, this would be a perfect time to come forward. This year is actually the beginning of long range plans that have been in the making for 38 years. I can guarantee a welcome reception of all interested parties. Attending monthly meetings is not a requirement but is certainly enjoyable. You'll find a sense of humor is definitely a plus. Feel free to contact anyone involved in the associa-

tion if you are so inclined to help out.

Let me close by apologizing to all those that felt their rights were infringed upon by the decision to reverse the Civil War encampments. Until the last couple of years or so, the camps were previously set up in the Dalen hay field which was not historically correct but no one seemed to have a problem with that so I certainly didn't anticipate a problem with a Union camp on the court house lawn. I know many of you would like to write a letter or make a phone call to voice your opinion. I wish I could provide you with something concrete and say this will make a difference. I can't. In order to see a change in attitudes I suppose we would have to see a change in the way our judges and lawmakers interpret what our founding fathers intended in the writing of our Constitution. Write to those that can make a change.

We're looking forward to another festival already in the making and hope to hear from many of you soon.

Karen Armstrong
Treasure Mountain Festival Assoc.

Consider Operation Christmas Child

Editor, the Times:

It's October and that means it's time to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child. The Basagic Funeral Home in Petersburg, WV, is the main collection site for Pendleton, Grant and Hardy counties, and will be accepting boxes from now until Nov. 17. Hardy County residents may drop off boxes at the South Branch Inn. Pendleton County residents may drop off boxes at the Potomac Valley laundry & Dry Cleaning, Main Street, Franklin or Living Faith Church. On Friday evening, Nov. 17, the shoe boxes from all three counties will be loaded on a truck heading for Keyser and then on to North Carolina. Samaritan's Promise will then have the honor of placing a shoe box in the arms of a very deserving child.

Operation Christmas Child collected and shipped shoe boxes filled with gifts for 16 million children during the 2001 season.

Hands and Harvest

RN/LPN POSITION 11-7 shift

Full-time or Part-time positions available at

Grant County Nursing Home for one who enjoys geriatric nursing. Salary negotiable.

Contact Lila Frye, RN, DON at 257-4233.

EOE. Grant County Nursing Home is a nonprofit facility and with respect to employment, provides equal opportunities for qualified individuals without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin or creed.

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8:00 a.m. - 12 noon

For more information call 567-2601

Same Day Payment



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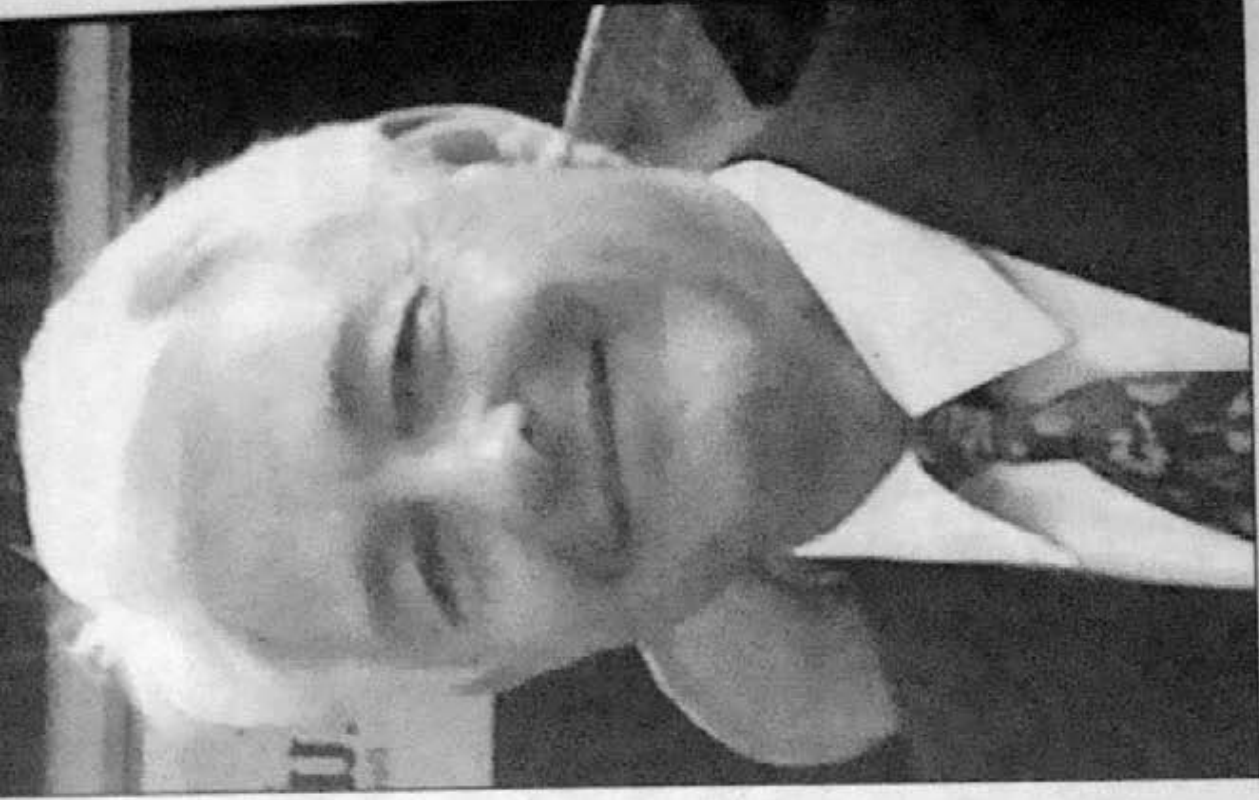
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WALT HELMICK



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Paid for by the Committee to Re-Elect Senator Helmick—Rita Hedrick Helmick, treasurer

Hog Butchering Was Part of Thanksgiving Tradition

Sugar Grove

Home — a word that creates a long in the heart for those who are away from it. Home satisfies a deep yearning in the heart that nothing else can. It doesn't matter that home may no longer exist, sold or torn down years ago. That longing is still there for the dear place.

It used to be that family went home to assist with the Thanksgiving tradition of butchering. The cooler fall weather usually ushered in butchering time when pork was killed and processed for the winter's supply of meat. There were no coolers or modern meat-cutting tools, so everything was done the hard way. Folk learned early not to waste a scrap of anything. It is always a messy day. The hogs are shot, then

scalded in a butchering tank of hot water, then hung on a scaffold and cut wide open and the stomachs are removed. Plenty of hot water is used. The intestines, which are scraped clean, are scraped twice to be sure they are clean. They are stuffed with sausage, which are seasoned with salt and pepper. Stomachs were cleaned before stuffing it with sausage meat, potatoes and seasoning to be cooked for "punch." The hams, side meat, pork chops, tenderloin and ribs are cut out, and later the hams and bacon are cured. Cracklings remain from rendering the lard from the lard press. Pudding was made from the head meat, liver, heart, kidneys and pig ears after being cooked. It was then put in cans after the seasonings were added. The feet, minus the hooves, were scraped and cooked tender and

pickled. The juices of the pudding meat made "Pon Hoss." Later, it would be sliced and fried. A bountiful noon meal would be prepared for the help. At the end of the day, the kettles and butchering items were then washed.

Thanksgiving is a family time, when members who are scattered afar make an effort to come home. There is much for one to be thankful. The unknown author to the following article, presents to each one to be ever thankful.

"If you own one Bible — you are abundantly blessed. One-third of the entire world does not have access to one.

If you wake up this morning with more health than illness — you are more blessed than the millions who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation — you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death — you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep — you are richer than 75 percent of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace — you are among the top eight percent of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married — you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful — you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can read this article you are blessed — over two billion people in the world cannot read at all."

As one bows the head and thanks God for the multitude of blessings, let one ask God to keep those who are fighting to preserve the blessings in the hollow of His hand. May each one have a Blessed Thanksgiving.

Birthday celebrations were in

order for Doris Rexrode Sunday afternoon. She received many well-wishers, cards, gifts and phone calls. The well-planned festivities, which were held at Calvary Lutheran Church, were managed by Jim and Linda Rexrode and Ed and Carolyn Smith of Staunton, VA. Among some of the distinguished guests were Evan and Jennifer Smith of Bunker Hill, Candy Nicolls of Clinton, VA, and Gale and Ann Day of Virginia Beach, VA.

The Dolan Grogg family seems to be having quite a time with the cold and related symptoms. It is hoped that they will all soon be feeling much better. G. W. Smith of Verona, VA, was a Saturday visitor, and the Steven Grogg family visited on Sunday.

Mildred Kiser has had successful surgery at Rockingham Memorial Hospital, Harrisonburg, VA, and is in hopes of recuperating very soon at her home. In the meantime, Robby Fisher of Dayton, VA, and Rodney Kiser of Morgantown have been doing "Papaw duty."

Lester Puffenbarger continues to celebrate birthdays, his 92nd, as a matter of fact! He continues to enjoy good health and remains at his home.

Bob and Brenda Fisher motored to Collingswood, NJ, to attend the memorial service of Beth Fisher. Sympathy is extended to the family.

Tom and Paula Mitchell enjoyed several days on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Others who basked in the lovely weather were Gae and Cynthia Hughes of Gainesville, VA, Joyce and Gene Sheffer of Montezuma, VA, and John Hughes of Hollywood, MD.

Among the many guests who attended Doris Rexrode's birthday celebration on Sunday were Everett and Leora Grogg.

Connie Logan of Port Worth, TX, and sister-in-law, Patty Sickler, spent a week in Paris, France, touring the Eiffel Tower, Palace of Versailles, Louvre, Notre Dame, various churches and other various sights of interest. The highlight of the tour was the tour guide, Kelly Sickler, who is studying in Lyon, France, this semester. The ladies had such an enjoyable time. Kelly is the daughter of Patty

and the niece of Countess. Concerns this week: Mary Hively, Eula, Mildred Kiser, Steve, Billy Allen Puffenbarger and Conway May, Bowers, John Bower, Amber Rader.

OYSTER & SUPPER
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER
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COMMUNITY C
BEGINNING
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- Homemade soups every day
- Hamburgers Pattied fresh daily
- Large variety MENU

CLOSED

THANKSGIVING DAY



Sweet Dreams of Cakes and Things

Brushy Fork Full Gospel Church

Personals